PCGG now willing to hear 'Madame Z' testimony

STORY IN PAGE A2

Korean treasure hunter released

By PDI Mindanao Bureau

PALEMBANG, Sultan Kudarat—After five months of captivity, a South Korean treasure hunter was turned over by his kidnappers to authorities here yesterday morning.

"I want to go back to Korea, then relax," Jae Keon-yoon, who has grown

KOREAN/A21

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

DENR strikes out anti-women provision

By Gerald Lacuarta

MARRIED women may now purchase or lease public lands without having to get a written permit from their husbands.

This has become possible after the Department of Environment and Natural Resources struck out a provision in an administrative order promulgated

DENR/A21

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, July 3, 2002 ★ 54 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 / no. 203 P15 website: www.inq7.net

CESAR B. BAUTISTA
Above political throng

RICHARD GORDON
DFA may be too slow

RAUL RABE
Too nice all around

LAURO BAJA
Lots of experience

ERNESTO MACEDA
Broad gov't experience

FRANCISCO TATAD
Foreign policy studies

RODOLFO SEVERINO
International stature

BLAS OPLE
'Last fling' for frontrunner

Envoy looms as DFA chief

RP ambassador to UK could edge out Ople for Cabinet post

By Carlito Pablo and Norman Bordadora

A DARK horse has emerged in the race to win the premier Cabinet post of foreign secretary. Which could upset the chances of the frontrunner, opposition Sen. Blas Ople.

Ambassador to the Court of St. James's Cesar B. Bautista, according to an INQUIRER source, now appears on the short list of nominees to the DFA post to be vacated by Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. on July 15.*(Story on this page)*

But Ople has a decided edge over Bautista mainly because he is reportedly the choice of President Macapagal-Arroyo. Bautista, according to the INQUIRER source, was recommended by former Foreign secretary Roberto Romulo, who's himself being considered to replace Guingona.

Bautista's advantage, according to his supporters, is that he is perceived to be above the well-entrenched factions in the DFA's politically-charged arena. During the Ramos administration, Bautista, 65, formerly a Unilever executive, was secretary of trade and industry.

"His forte is trade," according to a source in the diplomatic circle. "Bautista is very qualified. He is principled and has a mind of his own. His expertise lies on the economic side of diplomacy."

Other names on the short list of the President are DFA Undersecretary Lauro Baja, former DFA Undersecretary Rodolfo Severino, former Ambassador to the United States Raul Rabe, former Senators Ernesto Maceda and Francisco Tatad and Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon.

And then again, President Macapagal may decide to take over the post herself as acting foreign secretary until she finds a replacement for Guingona.

"There had been precedents before of the President being in concurrent capacity in a

ENVOY/A20

This time it's for real: Tito quits on July 15

By Dona Pazzibugan, Juliet Javellana and Norman Bordadora

OUT by July 15.

A joint statement from the two highest officials of the land made Vice President Teofisto Guingona's resignation as foreign secretary official yesterday—five days after the Palace reported.he had already left the Cabinet.

"No regrets," a visibly tired Guingona told reporters as he

THIS/A20

Gloria glows in Davao City 'After Dark'

By Ayan C. Mellejor
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—He did not want to get into trouble with the Presidential Security Group. So, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said no when she wanted a night ride on the city mayor's Yamaha V-Star 1100 big bike.

But President Macapagal-Arroyo managed anyway to sneak out of her security cordon on board the mayor's borrowed Ford Expedition to the latter's favorite resto-bar, "After Dark."

The President broke her

GLORIA/A20

READ his lips: US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone with President Macapagal and AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu at Camp Abubakar, the former MILF headquarters in Barira, Maguindanao.
EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA says MILF's Camp Abubakar to be converted into an Army base

By Edwin O. Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau
and Dona Pazzibugan, *in Manila*

CAMP Abubakar, the 10,000-hectare former stronghold of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Maguindanao, stays in government hands.

President Macapagal-Arroyo made sure yesterday that Camp Abubakar would not revert to the MILF by ordering that it be turned into a base of the Philippine military.

The President said the former MILF headquarters would be converted into Camp Datu Duma Sinsuat and base of the Army's 603rd Infantry Brigade under Col. Antonio Romero II.

Sinsuat was the first governor of the Empire Province of Cotabato in 1944 under the administration of Jose Laurel during the Japanese Occupation.

"I am converting Abubakar as the laboratory for peace and development with the 603rd Brigade as its main protector," said Ms Macapagal during her visit to the former MILF headquarters, her first since she became President in January 2001.

She said the government would be pouring into the former MILF camp

GMA/A19

AP

STILL AT IT
To celebrate the 73rd birthday of former first lady Imelda Marcos, her friends and relatives threw a party on Tuesday at the Patio Victoria in Intramuros. Of course, she sang her signature song, "Dahil sa Iyo."

Lawmakers question timetable of new RP-US agreement

By Juliet Javellana and Martin Marfil

BUT where are the terms of reference (TOR)?

Congressmen yesterday reacted cautiously to President Macapagal-Arroyo's announcement that the Philippines and the United States had entered into a "sustained" military cooperation agreement, with House leaders saying an indefinite timetable would violate the Constitution.

"I want to know the duration because it should not be indefinite. It would amount to permanent basing for the US which is not allowed by our Constitution," said the chair of the House foreign relations committee, Rep. Apolinario Lozada.

Questions about timing aside, related developments are certain to heat up the policy debate about future Balikatan joint military exercises.

- A spokesperson for the American contingent said US troops taking part in Balikatan 02-1 have been given permission to train and assist government soldiers right on the

LAWMAKERS/A7

Dog runs for Congress in Florida

SARASOTA, Florida—The newest candidate challenging Secretary of State Katherine Harris in her bid for Congress is truly an underdog—a border collie mix.

Percy the dog is running as a write-in candidate in the Republican primary, according to his owner and campaign manager, Wayne Genthner.

DOG/A7

MALAKING TULONG YAN!

MARCOS FUND TRANSFERS

PCGG now willing to hear Madame Z

By Donna S. Cueto

THE PRESIDENTIAL Commission on Good Government yesterday changed its stance on dealing with Madame Z, the Canadian-English barrister who claimed to know of the transfer of allegedly illegally gotten Marcos funds from Switzerland to Liechtenstein.

The PCGG softened its stand nearly two months after the INQUIRER published a special report on Madame Z that touched on her testimony on the transfer of Marcos accounts before March 24, 1986, when a freeze order was handed down by Swiss authorities.

The transfer of the funds out of Switzerland allegedly involved members of the royal family of Liechtenstein, Switzerland's neighbor.

In a June 25 letter to the Philadelphia lawyers of Madame Z, Yorac said the PCGG was now willing to "consider" any proposal that would involve her cooperation with the PCGG and revealing any information that would be helpful in recovering the Marcos billions.

$125,000 offer

While Yorac had turned Madame Z's lawyer Ian Comisky's original offer to have the witness give an initial interview for $125,000, Yorac wrote Comisky the PCGG was now open to discussing compensation for Madame Z if she would volunteer to assist the PCGG as its "agent."

"Finally, we are open to considering any other proposal your client wishes to make, including (one) where your client will confer with the Commission—without any obligations being created—to discuss the nature and extent of her claimed knowledge, or a proposal where your client will volunteer to assist the Commission as its agent, compensation for which may be discussed subsequently, depending on our evaluation of the importance and weight of the assistance she can provide," Yorac wrote Comisky.

Well-connected

Comisky is a senior partner at Blank Rome Comisky and McCauley, LLP, a politically well-connected law firm with links to the United States Office of Homeland Security, the Cabinet-level agency created by President George W. Bush to "develop an integrated national strategy against domestic terrorism."

"We thank you for your proposal and will welcome any assistance you and your client can freely offer, considering the transcendent purpose of finally recovering what justly belongs to the Filipino people," Yorac said in her letter to Comisky, which was released by the PCGG to the media yesterday.

Madame Z is a Canadian barrister and Welsh solicitor who had worked for the global accounting and auditing firm KPMG in Switzerland.

She had offered to turn over to the Philippine government evidence that could pin down a big Swiss bank and an accomplice firm alleged to have laundered as much as $400 million in Marcos deposits just before the Swiss freeze was put into place on March 24, 1986.

The $400 million was allegedly transferred secretly "through the night" by Fides—a predecessor of KPMG Zurich, the witness' firm—from Credit Suisse to a Liechtenstein subsidiary, Limag AG, just before the Swiss Banking Commission ordered a freeze of all Marcos accounts at 6 p.m. of March 24, 1986, according to Madame Z.

Safety concern

The witness is now in the United States. She had asked to be identified only by an initial for fear of her safety.

According to her, it was "leaked" that the freeze was going to be imposed, thus triggering the movement of substantial amounts of Marcos Swiss funds in March 1986 to Liechtenstein.

A member of the principality's royal family was supposedly made a director of Limag AG in order to accommodate the Marcos account.

Limag AG is a "Liechtenstein subsidiary of Credit Suisse Group," according to the information submitted by her lawyers to the Philippine government.

But Yorac said the initial proffer and summary of testimony offered by Madame Z had "appear(ed) to refer to matters that we may already have information on."

Last week, Yorac changed her mind.

Perez denies FBI censured its local counterpart

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE UNITED States Federal Bureau of Investigation could not have "blacklisted" the National Bureau of Investigation, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said yesterday.

Perez was reacting to reports the FBI had censured the NBI after the latter released to media a videotape of last month's meeting between officials of the two agencies. The meeting had transpired in the course of a probe into Sen. Panfilo Lacson's dollar accounts.

US officials would have called him personally to register their protest if there had indeed been a "breach of protocol" as the reports implied, Perez said at a press conference at the Department of Justice building in Manila.

Reporters had asked Perez to comment on the issue, since NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco was abroad on non-official business. The justice secretary has administrative supervision over the NBI.

"I doubt that a friendly agency like the FBI (would do that)," Perez said. "If there had been a blacklisting, I would have been informed."

Not damaging

Perez pointed out that the videotape did not contain "highly confidential" information, and therefore its release was not damaging to the US government.

The tape was aired June 5 on ABS-CBN's "TV Patrol." A newspaper (not PDI)reported Monday that the FBI had been "outraged," and had asked the NBI to explain.

The videotape showed a meeting between NBI officials led by Wycoco and FBI officials led by Kyle Latimer at FBI headquarters in Quantico, Virginia.

During the meeting, Latimer confirmed that Lacson and his wife Alice held dollar accounts in the US, one of which contained at least $200,000 in deposits.

The newspaper report said that Latimer and his colleagues had not been aware that one of Wycoco's aides was filming the 45-minute meeting. A digital camera was allegedly hidden inside the aide's attache case.

Protocol breach

Also on Monday, US Embassy spokesperson Karen Kelley said the incident constituted a breach of protocol. She did not say if the NBI or Wycoco had been placed on the FBI "blacklist" as a result.

Wycoco had sought the Virginia meeting with Latimer as part of the NBI probe into Lacson's alleged money-laundering activities in the US.

On June 15, Wycoco revealed that the four-dollar accounts allegedly belonging to the Lacson couple were worth a total of $1.2 million.

The NBI chief said that two accounts (Bank of America) were in Alice's name, one (Wells Fargo) in Lacson's, and the fourth was a joint account.

Quoting an FBI report, Wycoco told the INQUIRER that the total amount represented disbursements that the Lacson couple had made from December 2000 to November 2001 from the four accounts.

Wycoco did not reveal how much money was left in the accounts. But he said it was sufficient to note they were worth $1.2 million at one point, and that "as of December 2001, they were still active."

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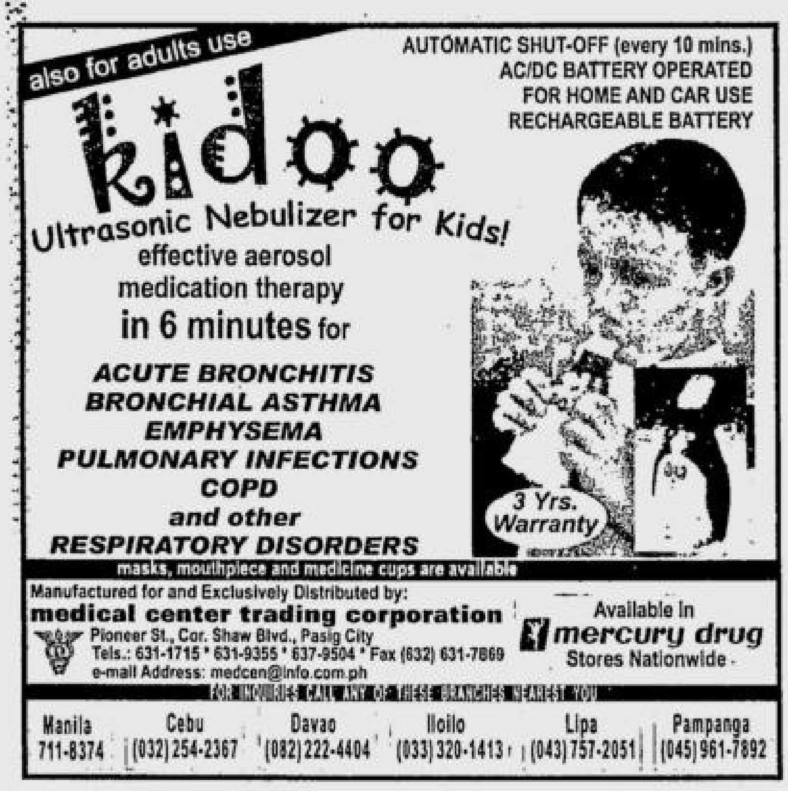
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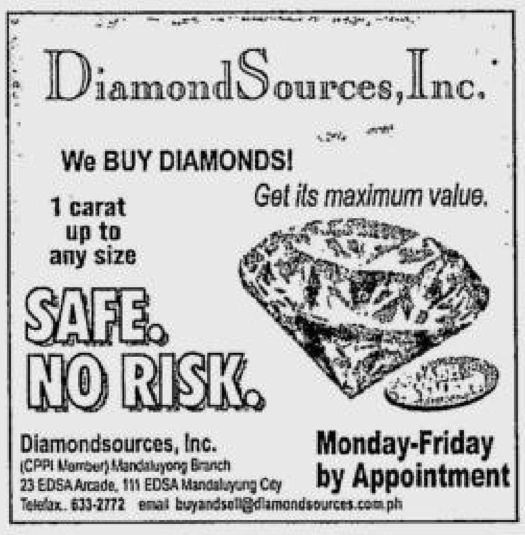
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OWN DESIGN WELCOME

Church backs PDI's 'New Paper Drive'

By Celine R. Madamba

METRO Manila's 270 parishes are set to endorse the Philippine Daily Inquirer's "New Paper Drive" this weekend, further boosting the already phenomenal response from companies, organizations, and individuals.

The endorsement comes as a result of Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's call for all-out support of PDI's campaign to recycle old newspapers and tabloids.

"Let us join in this endeavor for a safer and healthier nation," Sin said in a circular issued last week. Some of the parishes are preparing to be drop-off points for the project.

Since its launch on June 5, "New Paper Drive" has generated enthusiastic participation. The League of Corporate Foundations (LCF), a network of some 40 corporate foundations nationwide, has pledged its commitment to the project.

LCF officials said half of the proceeds raised from the sale of member-corporations' old newspapers would go to the league's numerous poverty-alleviation programs.

The drive was also a highlight of LCF's recent Corporate Social Responsibility Week. Part of the celebrations was a turnover ceremony of old newspapers at INQUIRER's affiliate FEP Printing Press.

Other institutions that promptly joined the four-month drive include the Andres Soriano Foundation, Ayala Foundation, Petron Foundation, ABS-CBN Foundation, Metrobank, Metrobank Foundation, Bato Balani Foundation, Bank of the Philippine Islands, Amanpulo Resort, A. Soriano Corp., Anscor Insurance Brokers Inc., Anscor Land, International Container Terminal Services Inc., Phelps Dodge Philippines, and Toyota Motors Philippines.

"New Paper Drive" was piloted in Metro Manila last year with three main objectives: increase public awareness and participation in solid waste management, reduce the use of virgin pulp, and intensify existing efforts to promote recycling. This year's drive runs until Oct. 5.

PDI president Alexandra Prieto-Romualdez said the campaign was "one small way to inculcate in the Filipino mindset a deeper appreciation of environmental ethics."

A study commissioned by the environmental group Greenpeace showed that only four percent of the 5,350 tons of garbage generated daily in Metro Manila was recycled. The same study said 35 percent of garbage discarded outside the home was dumped irresponsibly—and illegally—in canals, streets, and landfills in areas that house 30 to 40 percent of the population.

There is much that newspapers and tabloids could do, the study showed, since only five percent of the newsprint that went into their publication was recycled every year.

Greenpeace said Metro Manila could recycle and compost at least 30 percent of its projected waste by 2005, and 60 percent by 2010, if a genuine waste-reduction program were immediately implemented. However, the environment advocates said, efforts to create a new system of solid waste management had been stymied by "a lack of political will among community leaders and planners."

Most local government units have yet to divert 25 percent of collected trash for recycling, as prescribed by the Solid Waste Management Act of 2000. The legislation ordered "material recovery facilities" to be constructed in every barangay or cluster of villages, and allocated P50 million to finance its first two years of implementation. But compliance has been tediously slow.

"New Paper Drive" has been expanded this year to include the cities of Cebu and Davao. Last year, Romualdez said, more than 1,800 trees were saved by recycling 100,000 kilos of old newspapers sold by individuals, households, schools, companies and institutions.

9 Pinoys nabbed for working at US airport

FORT WORTH, Texas—Fourteen men from the Philippines, Mexico and Peru—half of 28 aircraft mechanics detained at Meacham Airport here last week—appeared before US Magistrate Judge Charles Bleil for an initial court hearing on Monday.

The 14, nine of them Filipinos, remain in custody after being charged with federal immigration violations.

Assistant US Attorney David Jarvis said the men submitted false Immigration and Naturalization employment eligibility forms stating they were lawful permanent resident aliens or were US citizens or nationals, according to affidavits.

"The main point to be made here is that when false information is presented, it is a very serious matter," Jarvis said Monday, adding the investigation was part of the nationwide effort to secure US borders.

The Filipinos were identified as George de Castro Santarina, 48; Remigio Reyes Guemo, 49; Herman Bendoval, 49; Rosauro Camacho Banaban, 44; Solemno Bitantes Picardal, 49; Roberto Lising Carlos, 42; Jose Salta Maglalang Jr., 42; Eleseo Cruz Tolentino, 46, and Oscar Dominguez Rabutaso, 51. *AP*

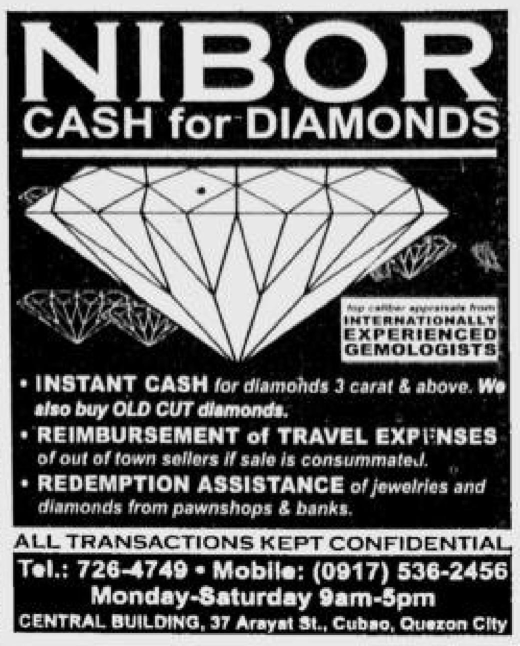
Japanese officials back fund

TOKYO—Japanese Cabinet ministers have agreed to donate an average 180,000 yen (P75,600) each to a fund setup to compensate women forced to provide sex to Japanese soldiers during World War II.

The 18 ministers, including Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, agreed on Tuesday to contribute a total of 3.27 million yen (P1.4 million) to help fill a shortfall in the Asian Women's Fund, said Trade Minister Takeo Hiranuma.

"At today's Cabinet meeting, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda proposed that we make a contribution and we all agreed," Hiranuma told a news conference.

The Tokyo-based fund is about 10 million yen short of what it needs to pay some 290 "comfort women" from South Korea, the Philippines and Taiwan who applied for "atonement money" of two million yen each, an official at the fund said last week. *Reuters*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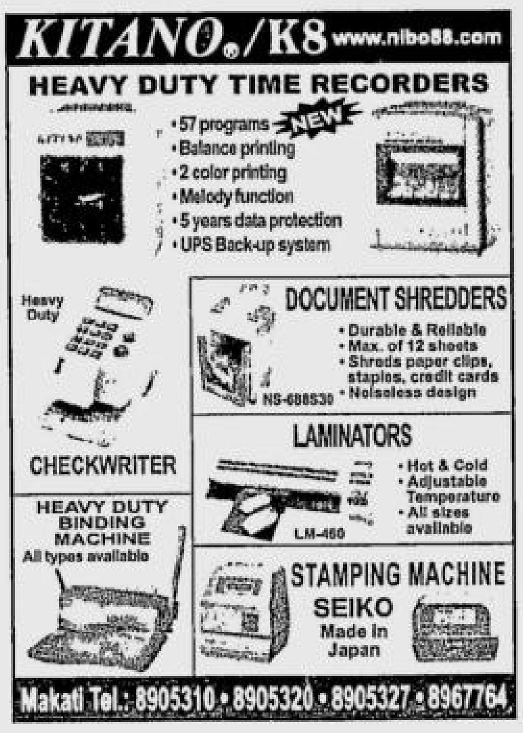
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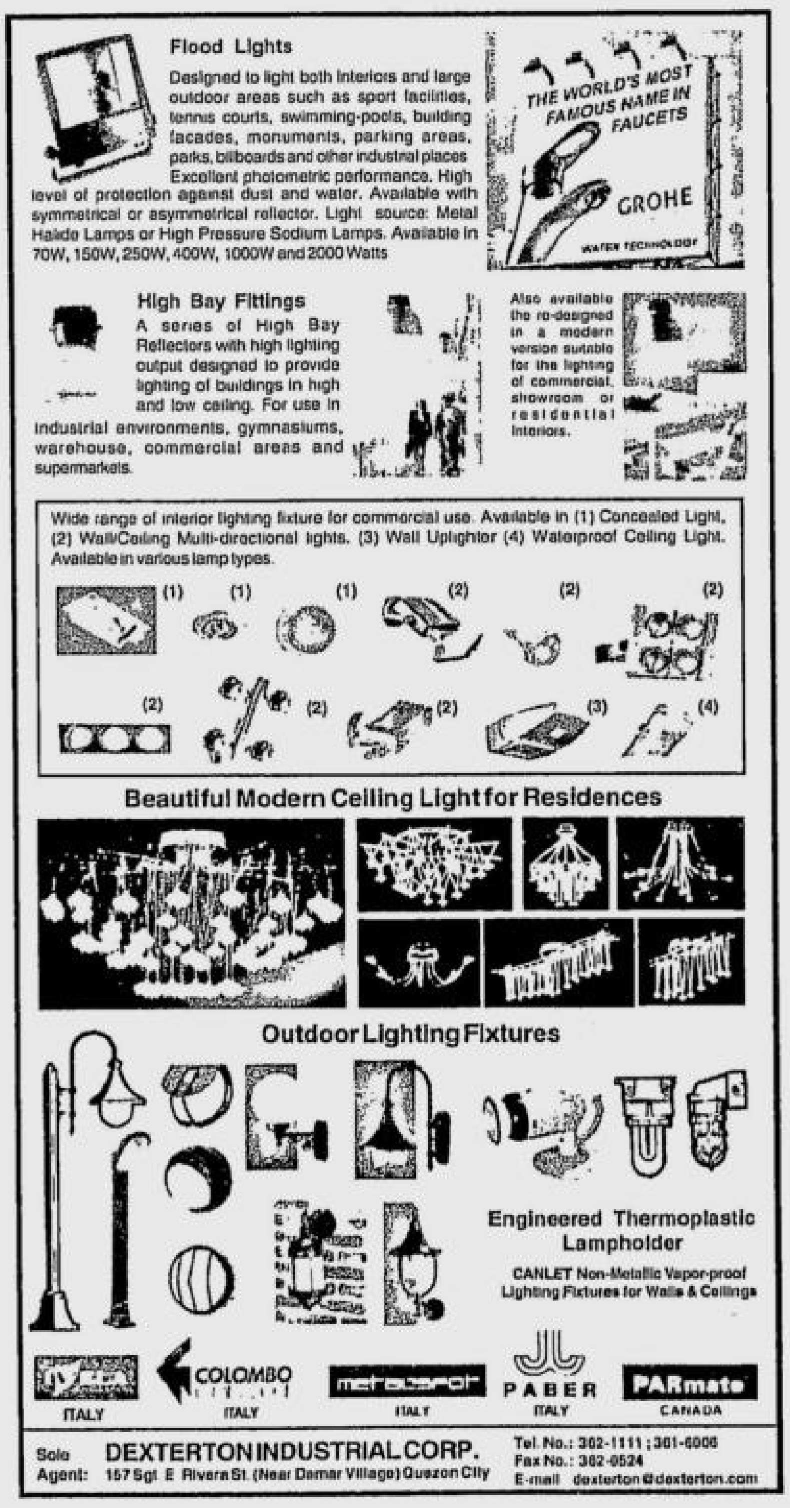
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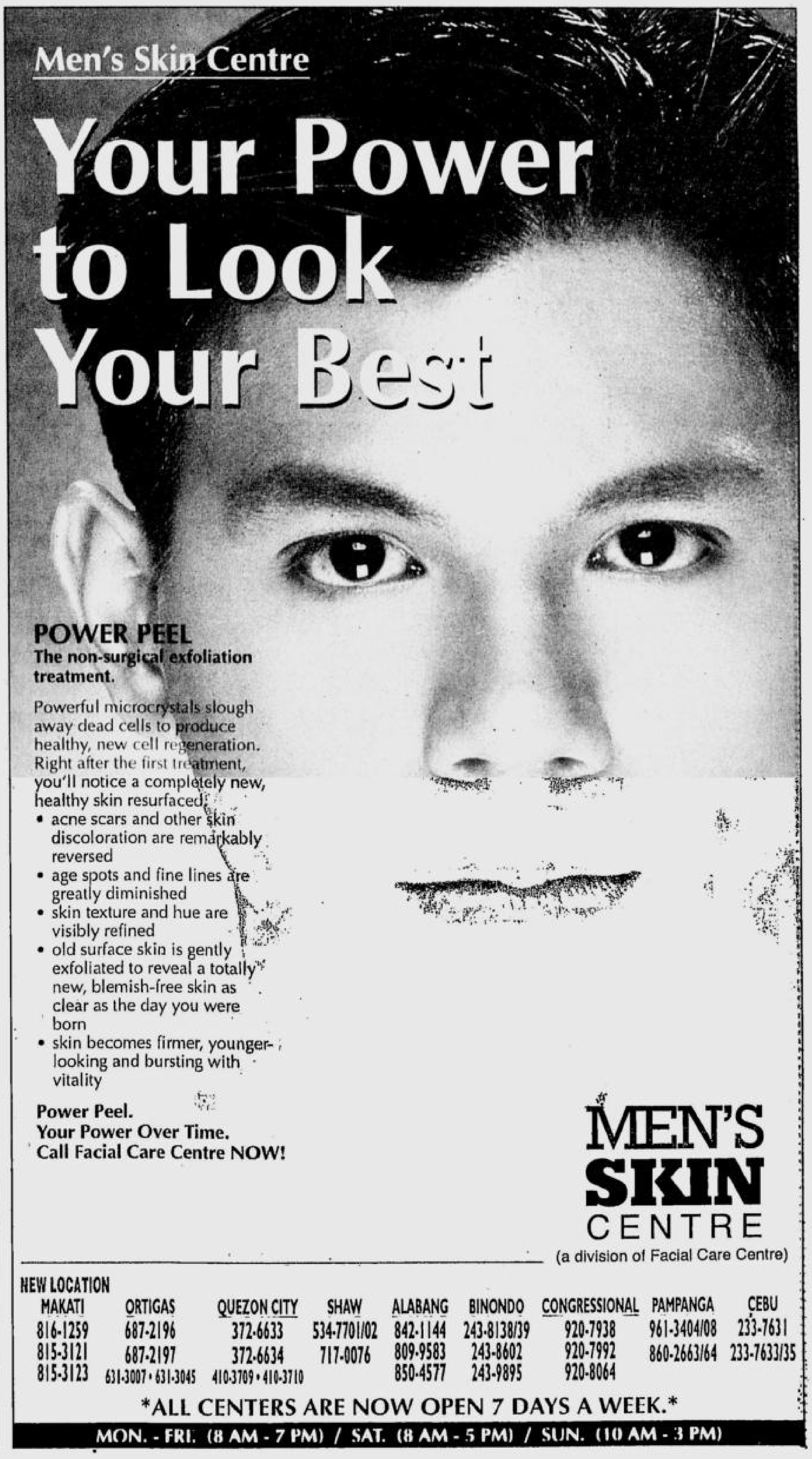
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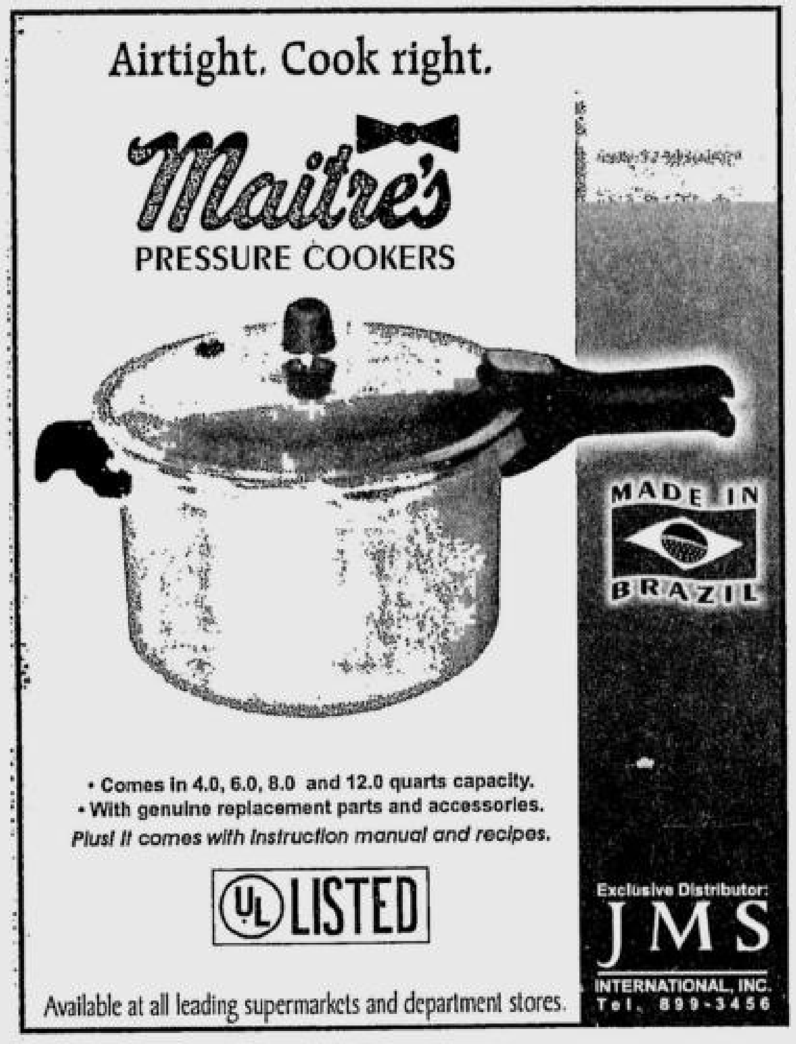
3 Estrada pals bolt to Gloria camp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By Carlito Pablo

THREE staunch allies of ex-President Joseph Estrada have crossed over to President Macapagal-Arroyo's camp.

First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo yesterday confirmed that he had personally secured the commitment of Ronaldo Puno, Ricardo Puno and Jimmy Policarpio to help the administration.

"They understood that I sought their help for the good of the country," Arroyo said in a phone interview. He did not specify what positions the three would hold.

"They could be consultants first," Arroyo said, stressing, "There is no politics involved (in my asking)."

Ronaldo Puno served as Estrada's campaign strategist during the 1998 elections. He served briefly as interior secretary during the Estrada administration, but resigned due to problems in getting his appointment confirmed.

Ricardo Puno, a broadcast journalist, served as press secretary during the Estrada administration.

Policarpio, Arroyo's classmate in law school, was Estrada chief's liaison officer with the House and Senate.

Ronaldo Puno told ABS-CBN that he had informed Estrada of his decision to support the Macapagal administration.

The reply came from Erap's camp: "Good luck."

Lawyer Jesus Crispin Remulla, spokesperson of the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, also said nobody was indispensable, and that they were sure "somebody better" would come along.

While Puno was a bright political strategist and an effective election campaigner, he could not push the opposition to victory in the May 2001 congressional and local elections, Remulla pointed out.

"Aside from the fact we were cheated in Mindanao, Ronnie did not have the government apparatus, which he was good at utilizing," Remulla said.

Speaking of which, Remulla warned that Puno would be "very dangerous" with vast government resources at his disposal come election time.

"Ronnie works best with government resources," Remulla said cryptically. "We just hope he will remain a gentleman—no dirty tricks please."

Remulla stressed that Puno should not be credited for Estrada's victory in 1998 since the deposed president, with his "*masa*" following at the time, was hard to defeat or cheat.

He said the Estrada camp had previously confirmed that Puno had been hired as consultant by Justice Secretary Hernani Perez to prepare for the latter's senatorial bid in 2004.

"The original plan was for Ronnie to help Nani Perez, but now he will also have to help in Ms. Macapagal's reelection campaign," Remulla told the INQUIRER.

As for the report that Ricardo Puno would be harnessed to revitalize the administration's media machinery, Remulla insisted it wasn't true.

"Dong," who lost in the last senatorial elections, was definitely "staying with the opposition," Remulla said.

But the PMP spokesperson didn't sound as certain about his "reading" of Policarpio. He merely said Estrada's former liaison man was not inclined to get into partisan politics at this time, because he had to attend to his involvement in Estrada's plunder case. Policarpio had been implicated in an alleged jueteng payoff.

Remulla also denied rumors that he and his brother, Rep. Gilbert Remulla of Cavite were being courted by the administration.

They would be the last ones to "consort with the administration," Remulla said. "It is not in our character to switch sides." ***With Gerald Lacuarta***

33 BIR officers face axe

THIRTY-THREE revenue officers and collection agents of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) face dismissal for alleged graft and corruption.

BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez said yesterday he had recommended the termination of the BIR personnel found to have erred in remitting collections, incurred cash shortages, falsified and tampered official receipts, and misappropriated revenue collections.

Last year, BIR fired nine officers found guilty of the same offenses.

Bañez said the violations committed by the 33 BIR officers and employees were uncovered during the first half of the year when the BIR failed to meet its target.

He noted the BIR did not even meet its target during the tax-payment month of April.

From January to June 28, collections stood at more than P190 billion, below the P222-billion target set for the first six months.

But the BIR's collections have started to improve this month, perhaps due in part to the strict governance standards the bureau has started to apply, according to Bañez.

The dismissal of revenue officers is part of the reform program the BIR has vowed to implement aggressively. ***Clarissa S. Batino***

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Passing of June points up lack of kidney awareness

By Adam Amneris
Contributor

KIDNEY Awareness Month came and went, with many Filipinos remaining blissfully unaware that they have impaired kidney function and need medical treatment—the reason why June was designated kidney awareness month in the first place.

A medical conference on kidney disease for doctors transpired at the Galleria Suites on June 20 and 21, but no article to enlighten the layman on the disease and its treatment found its way into the daily newspapers.

Kidney failure is a serious disease that can kill. Before it totally breaks down, however, the kidney begins to fail a little at a time.

This is the kind of disease that is usually free of symptoms: no pain, no dizziness, no vomiting, no feeling of weakness, no loss of weight, no nothing. That is why kidney disease usually goes undetected until it is too late. It is usually discovered in a routine blood test.

Late symptoms of kidney failure, however, are nausea, vomiting, a loss of appetite, weakness, increasing tiredness, itching, muscle cramps (especially in your legs) and anemia (a low blood count).

Kidney disease is often a complication of diabetes and hypertension. It causes many complications like anemia and bone disease, and aggravates pre-existing hypertension. That is why patients with diabetes and hypertension should have regular blood and urine tests to see if their kidneys have already been affected.

Why is kidney disease so serious? The main job of the kidneys is to clean the blood. They filter waste, or urea, and excess fluids from the blood daily. In this way, they maintain the chemical balance that the body needs to stay healthy and alive. One functioning kidney can do this job well enough. If both kidneys fail to function, the work of filtering has to be done another way.

When kidney function fails, blood can no longer be filtered. Waste and extra fluids build up in the body, and chemicals (you hear doctors using the term "electrolytes" to refer to these chemicals) become out of balance. This can make a person quite ill and even cause death.

Although kidney failure has no cure, certain treatments can help keep the body working as best it can.

What is dialysis?

There are two major types of treatment available for patients with kidney failure. One of them is dialysis, a process which takes over the work of the kidneys.

The second major type of treatment is kidney transplantation, a procedure that is very costly.

The more common form of treatment is dialysis, of which there are two types—hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis.

This piece dwells mainly on the first, currently the most common form of treatment for kidney failure.

Hemodialysis is carried out through an artificial kidney machine in a hospital or outpatient dialysis clinic. The machine is equipped with a filter called a dialyzer. As blood flows through the dialyzer, waste is removed and fluid and chemicals are balanced. Ideally, treatments should take place three times a week: Monday, Wednesday and Friday, or Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

Peritoneal dialysis (usually referred to as "PD") may be done at home, at work, or wherever a clean, private space is available for bag exchanges. In this type of dialysis, the blood is cleaned within the body in the blood vessels that line the abdominal (peritoneal) space using a special solution. This solution needs to be changed several times a day. A patient can usually do these changes himself in between his activities at home or at work.

The two types of peritoneal dialysis are continuous cycling peritoneal dialysis (CCPD), which requires the use of a machine, and continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD), which is machine-free. They can both be done at home.

It is important to remember that treatment does not cure kidney failure and that each type of treatments has its pros and cons. Chronic kidney failure is usually irreversible, and dialysis is a substitute for absent kidney function.

Which treatment?

Is one type of dialysis better than the other? Which treatment should one choose?

No one type of dialysis is "better" per se than the other. The treatment best suited for a person will depend on many factors, including lifestyle, work, the cost of available treatments and the medical condition of the affected person.

Is hemodialysis the same everywhere? No. Dialysis centers may differ in the type of filter or dialyzer used. There are two categories of dialyzers: bio-compatible and bio-incompatible.

Research has shown that bio-compatible dialyzers help in preserving whatever small amount of kidney function is left and preventing the development of a certain type of bone disease associated with dialysis. Studies strongly suggest that they may also help lower the risk of infection, improve a patient's nutritional status, and help hemodialysis patients live longer.

Dialysis centers may also differ in the type of "buffer" they use. Kidney failure patients generally have too much acid in their blood. The dialysis treatment uses a "buffer" to neutralize this excess acid.

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Boorish drivers outsmart 'smart' traffic system

By Armand N. Nocum

THE PROPENSITY of Metro Manila's drivers to violate basic traffic rules is making the computers behind the new P500-million "smart traffic" system go haywire.

The Sydney Coordinated Adoptive Traffic Signal System (SCATSS) that has effectively improved traffic in busy streets in the US, Hong Kong, Singapore, China and Australia has apparently found its waterloo here.

"Our drivers are hopelessly lacking in traffic discipline," complained Godofredo Galano, head of the Traffic Engineering Center of the Department of Public Works and Highways (TEC-DPWH).

According to Galano, the recently completed SCATTS system would work best if motorists in Metro Manila stuck to their lanes.

The Australian-made system sets the "cycle time" of traffic signals based on the number of vehicles crossing intersections at any given time of the day. The TEC installed sensors underneath key intersections to do the job.

"The undisciplined use of lanes—drivers use the leftmost or inner lane to go straight ahead and the middle lane to make sudden left or right turns—is confusing the computers," Galano said.

As a result, the computers have been giving the wrong tempo to the traffic signals, which are not applicable to existing traffic volumes.

Galano said drivers should follow the "lane distribution," the painted arrows on the lanes that show where they should be when turning or driving straight.

Galano also blamed traffic enforcers who tinker with the traffic signals and conduct traffic manually for the mess.

Earlier, Galano had cited the use of defective light bulbs in traffic signals for the failure of the expensive traffic system to work on the traffic gridlock in Metro Manila.

The light bulbs are installed and maintained by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority-Traffic Engineering Center (MMDA-TEC) under Ernesto Camarillo.

Camarillo said light bulbs that are supposed to last 8,000 hours burn out after only 2,400 hours. He said about 160 bulbs burn out daily, a number too high for the few men under Camarillo to replace quickly.

The defective bulbs were found to have been bought from China, when the good brands are made in the US, the Netherlands and Japan.

Camarillo earlier blamed the burnouts on leaks in the traffic lamps, but a DPWH-TEC official who asked not to be identified said Camarillo's reasoning was hollow.

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Gambling lords behind black propaganda–Lina

By Alcuin Papa

INTERIOR Secretary Jose Lina said yesterday jueteng lords were behind a propaganda campaign aimed at derailing his drive to finally quash illegal gambling in the country.

In a talk with reporters yesterday at the Bahay ng Alumni at the University of the Philippines, Lina said certain broadsheets and radio and TV stations were "questioning my motives" in the relief of seven ranking officials of the Philippine National Police.

He said the news reports even alleged his family was involved in illegal gambling.

"This is pure black propaganda and jueteng lords are definitely behind it. You don't expect gambling lords to take this sitting down," Lina said.

Aside from gambling lords, Lina said some "local officials are also putting me in a bad light."

Aside from the seven PNP officials, Lina had sent letters to five local government officials, warning them of their failure to curb illegal gambling in their respective areas.

The letters went to Governors Lito Lapid of Pampanga, Teresita Lazaro of Laguna, Jose Yap of Tarlac and Pablo Garcia of Cebu, and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Lina said the local officials were close to violating his "three strikes you're out" policy.

Under the policy, a local official in whose area of responsibility three anti-gambling raids have been conducted will face administrative sanctions.

In the letters sent out by Lina last week, the five officials were ordered to explain within 10 days why their deputization by the National Police Commission and the DILG to fight illegal gambling should not be revoked.

Under the Local Government Code, local officials could be charged with serious neglect of duty. But, Lina said, "we have not reached this stage."

Lina also revealed that suspicious-looking car-riding persons have been seen near his residence in Laguna.

Lina said replacements for the seven PNP officials have not yet been designated.

He said the PNP's Senior Officers Promotions and Placement Board has sole authority to designate the replacements for the officials.

Manila cop in Baguio bribe try faces raps

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE WESTERN Police District is throwing the book at embattled Manila police Insp. Luis Chico.

Chico, who was accused of offering Baguio City policemen a bribe to release two suspected drug dealers, faces summary dismissal from the service after the WPD filed grave misconduct charges against him.

WPD officials are also mulling putting Chico under preventive suspension while he is being investigated.

"We recommended the filing of administrative charges—for grave misconduct—against him before the district inspectorate office," said Chief Insp. Marcelino Pedrozo Jr., head of the WPD-General Assignment Section.

Chico reportedly went to the 4th Regional Narcotics Office in Baguio before dawn Sunday and offered policemen there P200,000 to release two men who had been caught in a buy-bust operation with P900,000 worth of shabu.

Chico claimed the suspects were police "assets" who were to be used in a police operation in Caloocan City, which could have led to "a P10-million illegal drug haul."

Chico was charged Monday with corruption of public officials before the Baguio City Prosecutor's Office.

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Verdict: GMA bungled 'Tito' affair big-time

By Cynthia D. Balana, Rocky Nazareno, Juliet Labog-Javellana and Michael Lim Ubac

OPPOSITION leader Sen. Edgardo Angara sees the confusion that attended the resignation of Vice President Teofisto Guingona as foreign secretary as a failure in leadership on the part of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Even among Ms Macapagal's own allies in the ruling coalition, the prevailing sentiment was sadness over what was seen as the insensitive treatment of a true and decent man and relief that the issue had at last been laid to rest.

Angara cited Ms Macapagal's alleged tendency to undercut her own officials and rely on the views of individuals and groups without accountability as the reason for the disarray in her Cabinet.

He said this had been a constant source of irritants between Ms Macapagal and members of her official family, and accounted for her supposed failure to inspire the members of her Cabinet.

Even insiders in the ruling Lakas-NUCD have said that some of these "shadowy" groups had been undermining Guingona and that the President had tolerated the practice.

True enough, administration Sen. Loren Legarda yesterday "lamented" the way Guingona was forced into finally resigning.

"It looked like he was pushed against the wall," said Legarda.

But for the most part, Ms Macapagal's allies closed ranks to minimize damage to the administration coalition while heaping praises on Guingona for acting like a "true statesman."

Sen. Ralph Recto sought to calm the frayed nerves created by Guingona's departure by announcing that he would file a resolution that will commend the Vice President for "upholding the national interest during his 15-month stint as foreign affairs secretary."

"Senators may have differences on a lot of things but we are united on this matter. There will be bipartisan consensus," Recto said.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the President should "act aggressively and resolutely to mend political fences".

Strengthen, not break

"Guingona is an ally. Thus her other allies are concerned if they too might be treated similarly in the future. The President should reassure her allies that she is out to strengthen alliances, not break them," Pangilinan said.

Administration leaders in the House were largely relieved that the controversy over the Guingona affair was at last over.

"We are saddened by the turn of events, but we have to face reality," said Negros Occidental Rep. Jun Lozada who chairs the House committee on foreign relations.

"At least it will lay the issue to rest. But I hope that lessons were learned here," said Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez.

Gonzalez said he was thankful that "at least Guingona was given the chance to time the resignation himself."

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he was saddened over Guingona's resignation.

But resignation was "the only alternative" for Guingona given his differences with the President over the joint military exercises with the United States, he said.

"It can only be construed that his reason for resigning is the conflict in international policy with the President," Perez said.

A foreign secretary has to comply with what the President wants as the latter was the "chief architect of foreign policy", the justice secretary said.

But Perez did not think Guingona's resignation would cause any divisions in the ruling party.

Neither did Surigao Rep. Ace Barbers who said Guingona's resignation would put an end to the opposition's dream of "breaking up the administration by sowing intrigues and creating an imagined rift among Lakas members."

He extolled Guingona's act of resigning as "a gallant gesture of a true statesman."

"Guingona has consistently shown that he puts the interest of the country above himself, an enviable trait which unfortunately many of us sorely lack. May his unselfish sacrifice be a good example and a guide for all public servants and government officials," Barbers said.

Shades of a dictator

Militant groups, however, see shades of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in Ms Macapagal over the Guingona affair.

The President "is doing a Marcos" in forcing Guingona out simply because he opposed the administration's pro-US policies, the Pambansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamamalakaya ng Pilipinas, a fisherfolk organization, said.

WITH a pained look, Vice President Teofisto Guingona answers questions from the media on his way out of the Department of Foreign Affairs yesterday, his last day as its concurrent head.

"President Macapagal is reinventing the personal style of former president Ferdinand Marcos in eliminating officials critical of US military plans and actions in the country," said the group's leader, Fernando Hicap.

Angara said the President should trust members of her official family and discourage the intrusion and meddling of groups and individuals in state affairs.

"She should be a true leader. There are only two guidelines here: Trust them or fire them," he said.

Angara said the President's reliance on individuals and groups without accountability was very dangerous.

He said the drift and disarray in the Cabinet was basically due to a failure of leadership and the President's inability to inspire her Cabinet.

Gonzalez said he hoped the foreign affairs portfolio would not be given to "people who do not deserve it," a reference to senior Palace adviser Roberto Romulo who is widely blamed for the rift between the two highest officials.

Lozada expressed the hope that the next DFA secretary would continue Guingona's nationalist orientation.

"The new foreign policy initiatives in the post-Guingona watch should consider his nationalist thrusts and all-out support for overseas Filipinos, our new middle class and main source of our economic stability,'" Lozada said.

Lozada and Gonzalez said they also hoped the next DFA head would have close relations with Congress as Guingona had.

"His watch was good given the problems he faced. He has shown maturity and political will in fighting for the interest of the country through his own interpretation of the Constitution," Gonzalez said. ***With a report from Gerald G. Lacuarta***

Military eyes sale, yet again, of more camps

By Jerry Esplanada

THE ARMED Forces of the Philippines is seriously considering selling idle military real estate to help raise funds for its cash-strapped and much-delayed modernization program.

The plan was one of several issues related to the AFP modernization program that the military presented at a recent National Security Council meeting in Malacañang.

The military "intends to complement what Congress appropriates (for the program) by looking at its assets and rationalizing (their) use," according to an AFP briefing paper.

The AFP would need the Congress' approval to be able to do that, however.

At the NSC conference, the military recommended the filing of an administration bill that would allow the AFP to "hasten the disposal or development of underutilized military camps and reservations" not covered by the Bases Conversion Development Authority (BCDA).

In 1995, the Ramos administration enacted Republic Act 7898, also known as the "AFP Modernization Act." The next year, Congress passed Joint Resolution 28, giving the go-ahead to the 15-year program.

Phase I of the project, also called Sub-Program I, was estimated to cost at least P164.1 billion. An additional P167 billion was needed for Sub-Program II, the AFP said.

JR 28 also authorized the appropriation of P50 billion for the first five years of the program, starting in 1997.

No funds were made available for the program between 1997 and 1999, however. While the AFP share of the BCDA proceeds, amounting to P5.4 billion, had been remitted to the Bureau of Treasury as early as 1995, the funds were turned over to the military only two years ago.

In addition, some P4.6 billion supposedly earmarked for the program in 2001 was not released by the budget department because a reported shortfall in revenue collections.

Not saying

It was only this year that Congress allocated P5 billion for the ambitious program.

The AFP did not say which pieces of military real estate were being considered for sale or development.

The military has proposed the creation of a state-run corporate entity that will be called AFP Real Estate Development Authority (AFPREDA) and will take charge of disposing of and developing the military real estate.

The defense department has already drafted a bill creating the AFPREDA.

The AFP plan also calls for the active participation of the private sector under the proposed body's "strategic real estate management plan."

Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, the AFP spokesperson, said he was aware of the proposal, which he said was first raised during the Ramos administration. He declined to give more details.

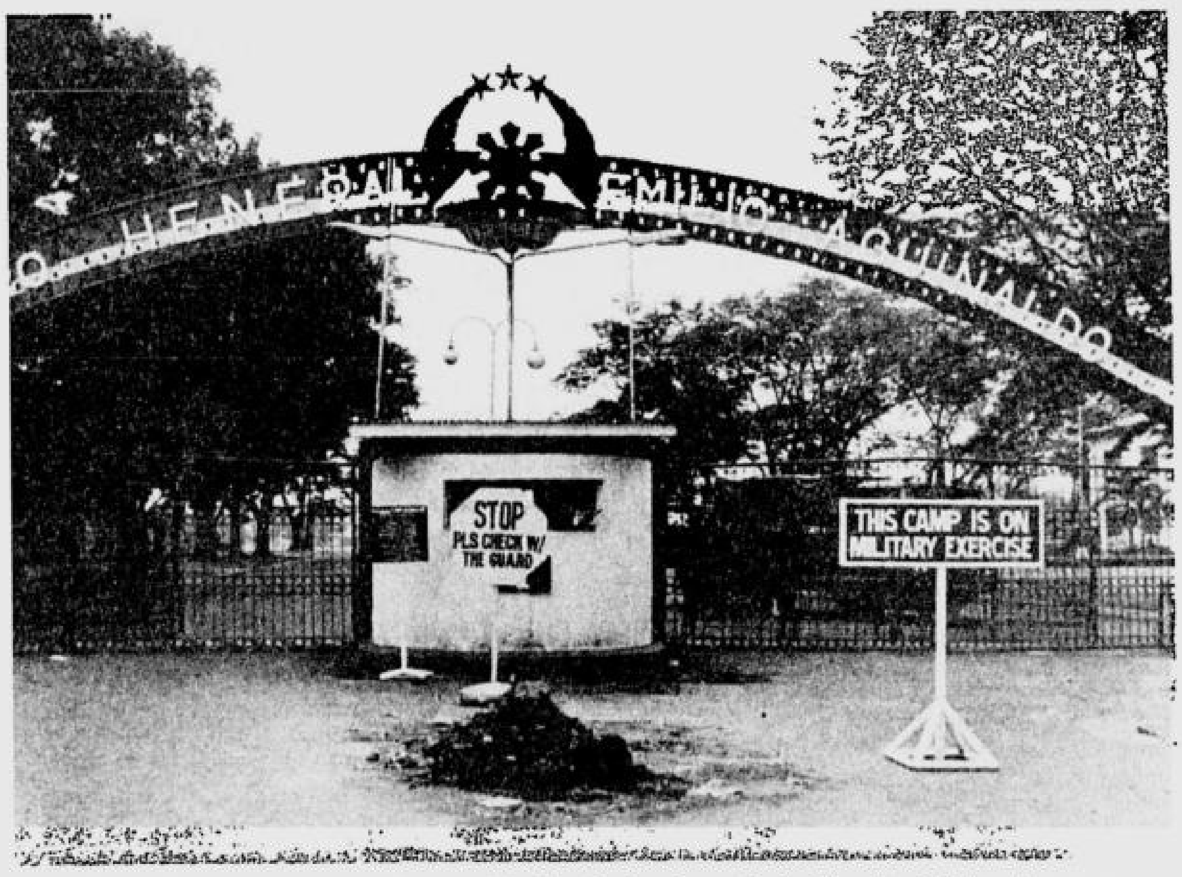
"That's a high-level issue, an issue for our policymakers to look into," Purificacion said.

Navy next

The AFP report said 33 projects have been funded from the release of P5.48 billion in BCDA proceeds. The Army got the biggest allocation, with 13 projects worth P2.12 billion, including the purchase of troop carriers, communications systems and night-vision devices and the upgrading of the command's 105-mm howitzers.

The Navy was next with nine projects worth P1.57 billion, consisting of patrol vessels and rotary and fixed-wing aircraft upgrades, weapons for the Marine Corps and development of three naval bases, among others; and the Air Force with P1.23 billion for the upgrading of its existing assets.

The AFP General Headquarters, meanwhile, received P548 million for the procurement of top-of-the-line communications systems.



AT THE RATE the military is willing to sell off its lands, Camp Aguinaldo, the AFP headquarters on Edsa in Quezon City, could be its only real estate left. PETE CRUZ FILE PHOTO

The modernization program "will enhance the Filipino soldier's fighting capability as he meets the demands and challenges of the times like the anti-terrorist and anti-insurgency concerns of the Armed Forces," Purificacion quoted AFP chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu as saying.

Aside from funding problems, there were other factors that caused the delay in the implementation of the modernization program.

Financial crisis

The AFP said it was the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s that strained the government's capability to support the program. The peso was devalued by almost 41 percent as the economy saw a significant reduction in foreign investment. As a result, the affordability and sustainability of projects under JR 28 "became harder to attain."

In 1998, the newly elected President, Joseph Estrada, suspended the program.

"The resurgence of insurgency activities in the latter part of 1997 resulted in the enactment of RA 8551 which transferred back to the AFP the responsibility for internal security operations'. The validity of the program as embodied in JR 28 was no longer compelling," the AFP report said.

The implementation of the program was further hampered by the "weakness of the AFP-Department of National Defense procurement system." The system was described as a "multi-layered organizational structure with personnel having unclear functions, lacking expertise in the procurement trade and not having career points. These inadequacies were complicated (by) untested procurement procedures and competing priorities among the major services."

The report said the problem was also aggravated by the frequent changes in procurement rules and procedures. It said the defense department's acquisition process was subjected to various inapplicable provisions of government procurement laws that were confusing for those implementing the project.

Cited as an example was Executive Order 302 (series of 1996) that emphasizes pre-qualification for prospective bidders. The AFP came up with a short list of proponents for its first projects in 1998. But even before anything was approved, EO 262 was issued in 2000 with totally different prescriptions, emphasizing post-qualification for bidders.

Cumbersome

Still another directive, EO 40, was to be issued later, "consolidating all rules governing procurement of goods and services." But EO 40 was found to be too cumbersome and its implementing rules and regulations "difficult to comply with."

The report also noted that the AFP had no separate procurement rules governing the acquisition of equipment under the AFP modernization program.

"This is why despite the changes in procurement policies, the modernization program's equipment acquisition process remains unchanged," the report said as it noted that defense acquisition was "far more complicated than simple procurement of supplies and materials".

Another concern was the "fixed budget for the entire 15-year modernization program."

JR 28 had prescribed the projects for implementation and the estimated total cost of the program, P164.1 billion, over a period of 15 years.

Fixing the amount was unrealistic, however, considering that the approved projects would have to be sourced mostly from foreign sources, the report said. For one thing, the peso's buying power had been vastly eroded.

"If this provision of JR 28 is not corrected, most of the projects listed cannot be implemented," the AFP pointed out.

It proposed that the budget for the modernization program be based on a "percentage of the latest official gross domestic product or gross national product."

A review and amendment of RA 7898 would pave the way for providing a new scheme for the allocation of program funds, establishing a separate procedure for the acquisition of program-related equipment and services, and making the AFP modernization program a "continuing program," the AFP said.

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A CAMPAIGN poster for Percy, a mix of collie and German shepherd, which is making a run for the US Congress in Florida's 13th congressional district. REUTERS

From page A1

Genthner is offering up his canine candidate as both satire and protest against the political establishment.

"No one has a realistic expectation that a dog can get elected," Genthner said last week.

"But plenty of people will be willing to vote for a dog to represent their discontent with the political system," he added.

Percy and his volunteer campaign staff have been shaking paws and handing out flyers, with slogans such as "Never made a mess in the House! Never will!" and "PERCY! Putting the LICK back into Republican."

His official campaign bio describes Percy as a compassionate conservative who takes a hardline stand against social parasites, particularly fleas and worms.

His past is also free of sex scandals, due to "timely neutering."

Harris, who faces one Republican challenger and five Democrats for the open congressional seat, is not concerned.

Percy "has a lot of paws to shake to catch up," said campaign spokesperson Jessica Furst. *AP*

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nora dela rosa

Lawmakers . . .

From page A1

frontlines of the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf.

- In Washington, US President George W. Bush ordered up to $10 million in counter-terrorism aid for the Philippines.
- The RP-US Mutual Defense Board, which met in Honolulu last week, has included a "long-term program against terrorism" in its current five-year plan.

"There's nothing wrong with (the sustained program) but there must be new terms of reference," said House Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez.

Lozada urged President Macapagal to convene the National Security Council to discuss her plan to extend the Balikatan but on a smaller scale and with wider coverage.

"For as long as it is covered by a new terms of reference, it should not be a problem," Lozada said in a phone interview.

Both Gonzalez and Lozada warned that the sustained program should have a definite timeframe. "It should not be permanent because it would violate our Constitution. They can do it in stages," Gonzalez said.

Lozada said he wanted to see the definite plans first before giving his support or withholding it. He said a general TOR for the sustained Balikatan should spell out the total number of participating US troops, the specific areas where the joint training exercises will be held, and the duration of the exercises.

Frontline posting

More than 500 US troops are deployed in Basilan for training exercises that will end on July 31. The US force includes some 160 Special Forces commandos who will now be allowed to join government forces at the company level, said US Maj. Cynthia Teramae.

"We have received the order that allows us and grants the permission to do so by our government and your government," Teramae told reporters in Zamboanga City, the staging area for the joint exercises aimed at wiping out the Abu Sayyaf.

"We have received formal permission and that would start soon. We received the order a couple of days ago," she added.

Under the TOR of Balikatan 02-1, US troops are barred from joining actual combat and are restricted to "training and advising" the Armed Forces against the ruthless bandit group. They are, however, allowed to defend themselves if attacked.

The announcement that they would now be allowed at the company level, which involves actually hunting for the bandits, could put the Americans in greater danger and result in more clashes.

On June 17, suspected Abu Sayyaf members fired on American troops guarding infrastructure projects in Basilan, prompting the Americans to return fire. No one was hurt in the incident, the first case of US troops in Basilan engaging in actual combat.

But Col. Alexander Aleo said yesterday the US troops would not be allowed to join combat patrols.

"They will be stationed at the company level. They will not participate in patrols," Aleo stressed.

"Mainly it involves a small group of our special forces advisers," Teramae said, adding that these advisers might watch their Philippine counterparts conduct patrols.

She said approval came from US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who "will determine, upon his discretion," when American forces join local troops on patrol.

Counter-terror aid

On Monday, the White House released a Bush memorandum dated June 28 saying that "an unforeseen emergency exists that requires immediate military counter-terrorism assistance to the armed forces of the Philippines" and arguing that the need can only be met through the US Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

"I therefore direct the drawdown of up to $10 million of defense articles and services from the inventory and resources of the Department of Defense to the Philippines for counter-terrorism assistance," Bush said in the memo, which was addressed to Secretary of State Colin Powell and Rumsfeld.

The AFP welcomed the US aid.

"This is good news. It will be a (big boost) to the equipment upgrade of our forces," said retired Gen. Melchor Rosales, spokesperson for the Department of National Defense.

But when asked whether the $10-million aid was part of the Mutual Logistics and Support Agreement or the $100-million pledge by the Bush administration for the Macapagal administration, Rosales appeared lost.

"Whether it is part of it or not, I cannot comment about it yet, I have to read the full text of the information," Rosales said. ***With reports from AFP, AP, Reuters***

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 205
ISSN 0116-2642

OPINION

email: feedback inquirer.com.ph **website:** http://www.inq7.net

THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
• Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
• Editoral Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4807
• Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

• 100% soy ink •

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
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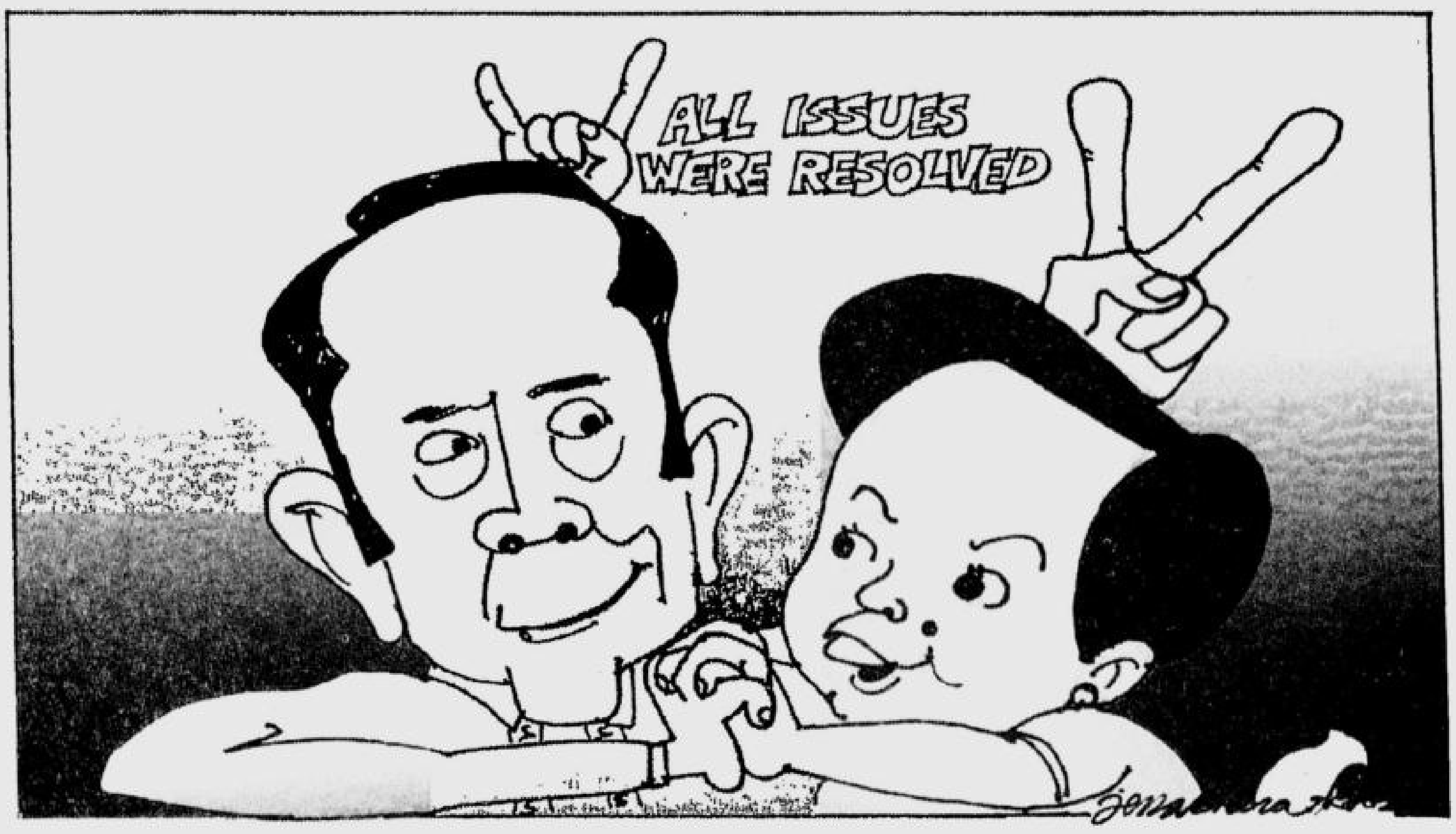

Overdue resignation

EDITORIAL

AS EXPECTED and as he himself announced over the weekend, Vice President Teofisto Guingona yesterday resigned as foreign secretary. The official announcement released by Malacañang said his resignation was prompted by "an honest difference of opinion concerning policy."

If that was all there was to it, then Guingona's resignation came six months late. The policy dispute erupted as early as January this year when President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo agreed to let American special forces help fight the Abu Sayyaf kidnap gang as part of US President George W. Bush's international war on terrorism. Guingona, who was one of the 12 senators who voted for the removal of US military bases, was not too happy about welcoming back American troops even in the guise of training their Filipino counterparts. Even then Ms Macapagal already had to remind Guingona that she was "the architect of foreign policy" to make him toe the line.

Since then it was quite obvious that Guingona was not in full agreement with the administration's position on many issues, including globalization and free trade as well as a planned Mutual Logistics Support Agreement that would deepen US military involvement in fighting the war against the Abu Sayyaf bandits.

But if Guingona was not very comfortable with these policies, neither were those people who helped craft these policies quite comfortable with having Guingona around. And if he and his supporters are to be believed, his foes seldom missed any opportunity to whisper intrigues into Ms Macapagal's ears. And she listened.

Last week, the decision to let Guingona go was made—apparently with his concurrence. But some eager-beavers, like acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, announced his resignation prematurely, forcing Guingona to deny he ever sent a letter of resignation. Afable had to retract his announcement, giving the public a very unflattering view of an administration that lacks not only coordination but also basic courtesy.

Even so it was clear to everyone that Guingona was on the way out of the foreign office. Ms Macapagal's letter accepting his resignation, whether offered or not, left no room for doubt about that.

Guingona didn't want to be rushed into it, but he knew he had to go. So after sending the message that he was not going to be bullied into resigning, he himself made the announcement that he was leaving, which was the least Malacañang could do to someone who had no intention of hanging around where he wasn't wanted.

As it is, even Guingona didn't get out of this very public row unscathed. Where once he could claim he was leaving out of principle, now a dash of pique has tainted his decision.

Nevertheless he is better off outside and voicing his reservations about certain policies than inside the Department of Foreign Affairs and swallowing every objection he wants to make. Like he himself said, the Cabinet needs team players, so if he cannot agree with the the plays being called, he has to get out.

In any case, Guingona isn't about to fade away from the national scene so soon. Not unless he trusts completely the man whom Ms Macapagal considers the only "strategic thinker" in her Cabinet.

Afable was quoted as saying that Guingona could resign as foreign secretary if he wanted. He could even give up the vice presidency, Afable suggested.

Of course, the Vice President can do either or both. This is a free country, and public office is not a matter of right or obligation.

But that is not for Afable to say. It is not even for President Macapagal to ask when it comes to the vice presidency. The President can demand the resignation of any member of her Cabinet or fire him if he refuses. As every Cabinet member who is in trouble is wont to say, members of the official family serve at the pleasure of the President. But she cannot force Guingona out of the second-highest office. As Vice President, he is not directly accountable to her but to the people. She may have nominated him for the post, but from the moment his appointment was confirmed by Congress his fate no longer rested in her hands.

If Afable doesn't know this distinction, then he compounds his arrogance with ignorance. Which doesn't speak well of the presidential spokesperson.

Since the President seems to be in a firing mood, why doesn't she get rid of Afable too? After the "wrong mistake" he made last Thursday, who can now believe what her official spokesperson says?

Should police forces be returned to mayors?

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

SHOULD control of policemen be returned to the mayors? This is the clamor of mayors as the answer to the unabated rise in crime. Because they have no control over the policemen, control being vested in the PNP director-general somewhere in Camp Crame in faraway Metro Manila, the police cannot be disciplined by the mayors who are closest to them, can see how they work and to whom complaints from the citizenry are directed.

It cannot be denied that the quality and discipline of policemen have deteriorated markedly since the different local police forces were united into one Philippine National Police. Give the cops back to us and we'll discipline them, said the mayors.

But the single national police force controlled not by the mayors but by professional police officers was initiated precisely because the local forces were undisciplined and abusive. They were appointed and fired by the mayor, promoted or demoted at his whim. Favoritism was rampant. Abusive and corrupt cops who were the favorites of mayors were never punished. Police forces became the private armies of the mayors. When there was a change of mayors, a change of the whole police force followed. Those who were formerly on the outside looking in, now that they're in positions of power, took their revenge on their former tormentors. Until the next elections. The cycle went on every four years. So the PNP was created to take the place of the local police forces.

The PNP, however, under past and present officers, has a very poor record. Under it, the most heinous crimes have proliferated. Kidnapping for ransom, bank robberies, rapes, murders, holdups and snatchings have turned the Philippines into another Wild Wild West. The police can't solve murders, can't rescue hostages and can't enforce traffic rules. Some of the policemen become criminals themselves. They rob banks, hijack cargoes, escort smuggled goods, extort money from motorists, massacre civilians. They protected gambling lords and illegal gambling proliferated. Something has to be done to stop the slide to anarchy.

But is returning control to mayors that something?

We invited the feuding Interior Secretary Joey Lina and the police generals the National Police Commission relieved of their jobs to last Monday's Kapihan sa Manila. Lina after saying yes, later said he had to attend a meeting. The generals said they didn't want to say anything as the Commission on Elections had frozen their relief. So we asked former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, a much-feared career police officer and former NBI chief and interior secretary, to tell us what he thought is wrong with the PNP and how it can be improved.

His answer: Return police control to the mayors. As a former police officer and at the same time a former mayor, it cannot be said that Lim is biased one way or the other.

What about the abuses and irregularities in the old days when the mayors controlled the police? we asked him.

Those days are gone permanently, he replied. They won't come back. Back then, the mayors could hire any policeman he likes. Now, a police recruit must first graduate from the police academy and must pass the civil service examinations. He cannot be fired without cause and due process. The mayor will still hire and fire him but he must follow those rules. So that should eliminate favoritism. Citizens can complain against abusive cops and watch what the mayor will do. Unlike now when erring cops are simply transferred some place where he is not known and the cause against him is forgotten, Lim said.

If the mayor coddles erring cops, the people can always change him in the next elections, he added.

Besides, we can have the old system when we had the local police forces and the national police force, which was the Philippine Constabulary, to check and balance each other. In the United States, they had the local police department, the country sheriff and his deputies, the state police, the National Guard, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It works for them. It should also work for us.

What about the investigative work of the police? It seems it can't solve most crimes.

If we want a good and efficient police force, we must be prepared to pay for it, said Lim. We must pay for the training of police investigators. We must pay for the equipment they need. We must pay them adequately, so they are not tempted to be criminals themselves. If a policeman can't support his family or families, he succumbs to temptation.

The reason our traffic is so bad is that we don't want to hire regular and properly trained traffic policemen who are expensive. Instead, we hired traffic aides, who were former Metro Aides, semi-literate street sweepers, just so we don't throw them out of jobs and because they're cheap. These former Metro Aides have feelings of inferiority and shy away from confronting drivers and pedestrians to enforce traffic rules, assuming they know them. Worse, they learned to extort money much faster than they learned traffic rules. And you can't seem to find any when they're most needed to untangle traffic jams.

Even the regular cops are not properly instructed. Motorcycle cops, for example, when they're not escorting wedding motorcades or funeral corteges, are supposed to apprehend moving violators. That's why they are on motorcycles. But where are they? They congregate in groups of half a dozen or more under flyovers to wait for color-coding violators, a job that can be done by a foot patrolman or traffic aide. But speeding motorists, weaving in and out of traffic and posing a danger to life and limb are free to do their thing because motorcycle cops are not doing their jobs.

'Pinoy'

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I CAN'T let Larry Alcala go without praise.

I met Alcala ages ago in a government office. He did the cartoons for a publication of that office while I copyread for it. He was "Mang Larry" to everyone, though he did not look particularly venerable. He was a heavyset mustachioed man, who looked like he had survived the rough and tumble of the city. He was also a very quiet man, who came in and out of the office often unobtrusively. He would just go to his brightly lit and tilted cartoonist's table and draw furiously.

Carla Gomez's write-up on him last week says he brought to life over 500 characters, drew 20 comic strips, did six movies, painted two murals and appeared in 15,000 pages in 50 years of cartooning. I can believe it. He showed the kind of frenetic energy that didn't just come from industry, it came from inspiration. He worked fast, showed his drawings to the editor, whose job was reduced to expressing approval, if not awe, of them, and left. He spoke softly, sometimes inaudibly, but he had a warm chuckle. And he had a twinkle in his eye.

One thing I noticed as well, with a sense of foreboding. He smoked as furiously as he drew, the smell of tobacco hovering around his work area like an apparition. I smoked pretty heavily then too, but I marveled at his cigarette intake.

I never saw him again after that, but I followed his cartoons loyally. Alcala himself might have considered "Asyong Aksaya" his best creation, but I've always been more partial to "Siopawman" and "Kalabog en Bosyo." That's only partly because "Asyong Aksaya" was a commissioned work by the government to crack down on everyone's profligacy except Imelda's. It's mainly that I thought Alcala was better in his less programmatic, less satirical, less political undertakings. I don't know that he ever developed the kind of biting humor that makes for sharp satire. He was a gentle soul who had had a gentle kind of humor. I thought he was best in those comic strips where he showed a free-flowing, even anarchic, sense of fun. The villains in "Siopawman" are a joy to behold.

And of course I was one of those who followed "Slice of Life" avidly and competed fiercely with friends to find his profile there. Hitchcock had his profile in his movies, Alcala had his in his cartoons. Alcala did it more creatively. It was fun when he had more than one profile in the maze or jumble that was "Slice of Life." It was no small triumph to spot them. I recall one time when I was the proud discoverer of his profile in an edition that seemed to contain none. What made it hard to spot was that it wasn't the usual miniature embedded in one of the details. It was one very huge thing that bounded the entire cartoon. His profile was the borders of the whole "Slice of Life."

As it was, that was just gravy. The added grace in the bountiful feast that was the cartoon itself, one that, as slices of life went, was one very generous serving. Other cartoonists would have their version of it, but Alcala's wasn't just the original, it was the best. He had the knack for spotting Filipino foible, but was never unkind. His touch was light, in more ways than one. It was so of course also in the way he drew, which was as light as it was expressive. And unlike many cartoonists, Alcala had the writer's gift for character and story. Whether he was drawing a comic strip, an editorial cartoon, or a Slice-of-Life-like maze, he showed a sharp eye for detail, the quality of the true raconteur.

I can't let Larry Alcala go as well without asking why he never became a national artist, coming nearest to it only as a nominee. It is not a testament to his lack of skills, it is a testament to other people's lack of perspicacity. I heard it before from writer-friends who were aghast that Alcala was passed up because he was "only a cartoonist." I share their horror at that judgment. This is a case where the only judgment that needs to be rendered is on the judges themselves. The verdict is guilty.

There is no high and low art, there is only good and bad art. There are no lofty and coarse artists, there are only good and bad ones. It's enough to remind you of the times when fiction and films were thought of as poor cousins to poetry and theater. Ah, but art, unlike war, is better left to artists. They're the ones who have the eyes to espy things being born. As artist goes, few can match Alcala for quantity and quality, for industry and artistry. The output is massive, and awe-inspiring. No less so is the sheer pleasure it gives. On a bad day, Alcala could still be funnier than many professional comedians on a good day. I don't know why it has to be taken against him that he produced stuff that didn't end up in the glass cases of libraries, free from the ravage of time and tide, but fell on the lap, and heart, of you and me, from the pages of a newspaper.

As national went, well, few artists understood the Filipino heart, or soul. It is no wonder Alcala's drawings, which appeared in Christmas cards, made Filipinos abroad ache with longing for the country and hop on to the next flight home. Few artists produced works that were unmistakably Filipino. Scholars and cooks may debate to their hearts' content what elements or ingredients make for the strange brew that is the Filipino, but you look at Alcala's drawings, a hodgepodge of East and West, of English and Tagalog, of siopao and mami, and you always know what it is. This is Filipino.

Larry Alcala never became a national artist—a thing that can still be corrected, in death if not in life, or in life if not in death, I am not always sure who are dead and who are living—but he did better. He died after having lived a life well and fully. He died after being first and last a Pinoy.

Troubling rift, wrong time

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. papered over their rift with an announcement yesterday that Guingona is resigning as foreign secretary on July 15.

July 15 was the date they had originally agreed upon for Guingona to step down until Malacañang prematurely released last Thursday President Macapagal's letter of June 26, thanking Guingona for "relinquishing" his portfolio.

The two leaders went back to the original agreement in an emergency meeting in Marco Polo Hotel, Davao City on Sunday, in an effort by the President to avert an open split with Guingona and a politically damaging crisis of the ruling Lakas party.

The Davao meeting was only a truce. Guingona expressed his resentment over efforts by some Palace insiders and advisers to undermine him by feeding her with wrong information that sparked the release of the June 26 letter, rushing his resignation ahead of the July 15 date previously agreed upon. The information received by the President was that Guingona was going to launch a blistering attack on the President over their policy differences, then announce his resignation at the Manila Overseas Press Club Vice President's night last Thursday.

Informed sources said Guingona had suspected that a group identified with former Foreign Secretary Roberto Romulo had been behind moves to discredit him with the President. However, from my own inquiries, Guingona's perception is exaggerated. The effort to rush his resignation did not come from Romulo. While Romulo, who is presidential adviser on international competitiveness, has the ears of the President on foreign policy and administration, the President also takes advice from other sources.

There's a group in the Palace which wanted the President to summarily sack Guingona, arguing that it is the prerogative of the President to dismiss a Cabinet member. This might be true, but Guingona had, as early as mid-June, agreed to negotiate his exit brokered by Speaker Jose de Venecia and Executive Secretary Romulo. They also did not reckon that Guingona has a political constituency and is president of the ruling party.

Sources said Guingona did not conceal to the President his resentment over taunts made by her men, among them acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable, that he should also resign the vice presidency. Guingona was elected by Congress to succeed Ms Macapagal as Vice President after she replaced President Joseph Estrada as chief executive.

The Davao meeting left hanging the question of whether Guingona would run for president in 2004. At the MOPC question and answer, he said he was running in 2004 but did not specify what post he would seek. Some quickly interpreted this as a presidential bid, which apparently unsettled Ms Macapagal, since Guingona is Lakas president.

The rift this time flared over the fiasco of the premature release of the letter—which was clearly a gaffe of the Palace—and not over the foreign policy issue stemming from the Visiting Forces Agreement and the joint Philippine-United States Balikatan exercises. In this policy dispute, Guingona had gone over to support the President's policy backing the VFA and Balikatan.

The clumsy handling of the Guingona resignation pushed the government to the edge of a Cabinet crisis at a time when the President's popularity rating has plummeted.

As far as the President is concerned, Guingona is something next to a political plague. One indication of how the dispute with Guingona has unsettled her, if not created unrest in the ruling party, is that at a dinner in the Palace last Saturday with journalists, the President curtly dismissed any questions about Guingona's resignation. When asked about Guingona, she said: "Let's not talk about Guingona for his own sake."

Guingona's fallback position without any Cabinet post is being Vice President, a position he likes to remind friends with a statement of former Manila Mayor Arsenio Lacson who said, "The job of the Vice President is to wait for the President to die."

The premature explosion of the tensions between the President and Guingona had both international and domestic repercussions. The international fall-out was that foreign governments had the clear impression that the government was in disarray. Previous to the fiasco, the government had received high ratings in foreign policy direction and the bold stroke taken by the President in her policy committing the country firmly to the US-led war on international terrorism.

After the fiasco, many diplomats said they were confused and did not know the direction of foreign policy, and were not confident of cohesion in the Cabinet. One diplomat remarked to a Philippine official, saying, "I don't know what to report to my government not to make her (the President) look bad." This remark reflects the dismay in the diplomatic corps.

Foreign policy used to be her strong side.

This has been cancelled off by the mishandling of Guingona, reflecting ineptitude on the part of the President in managing her own people and her allies. The rift in the ruling party certainly does not help her in breaking the impasse in the Senate.

A political break between the President and Guingona is not far-fetched. The finality of his resignation from the Cabinet does not close Guingona's political options—including a divisive presidential challenge in 2004, if only to spite her.

A remarkable boy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I FIRST met him around Christmas some years ago, when he joined the carolers from the Nazareth Growth Home and was persuaded by Sr. Sol Perpinan to act out his role as one of the sheep in the manger.

The young singers and the members of our household had a hard time suppressing their giggles, since Michael looked perfect for the part in his white jumpsuit and headdress with fluffy ears. Encouraged, he threw himself into the part, head-butting the other children even as the singers tried mightily to keep singing with a straight face. I decided then and there that Michael Christopher Maquipotin was a performer at heart.

He was also clearly the apple of Sister Sol's eye. He joined the Nazareth Growth Home family in 1996 when he was 2 years old, together with his mother Cita. Our family had the chance to track Michael's development through subsequent Christmases, though in later years he grew more self-conscious and refused to put on any more costumes or put on acts. I do remember, though, that last Christmas he and the other Nazareth children eagerly bore their poles with vari-colored parols and swayed spiritedly in time with the native carols that filled the air.

I even remarked to Sister Sol how pleased I was at Michael's appearance, for he seemed to be putting on weight and had grown taller. Sickly at birth, he seemed to be thriving. Sister Sol excitedly reported how well he was doing in school. Life, it seemed was looking up for 8-year-old Michael.

* * *

LIFE seemed even better for Michael early this year. Described by Sister Sol as a boy who "loved trips," he took his first plane ride in February, joining Sister Sol and other staffers of the Third World Movement against the Exploitation of Women in visiting the movement's shelters and centers in General Santos City, South Cotabato and Cebu.

And then, just this summer, came the biggest treat of all. In consultation with his mother and pediatrician, it was agreed that Michael be given the chance to travel abroad. The Third World Movement had received an invitation from Unicef, New York to send a child delegate to the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children from May 8-10. "The natural choice was Michael," says Sister Sol.

More blessings would come Michael's way. Even as they were processing his US visa, another invitation came—from Ambassador Jim Nicholson of the US Embassy to the Holy See, for Sister Sol to address an international conference on trafficking in Rome.

* * *

BORN without knowing his father, raised in a home for women seeking to leave the commercial sex industry, weakened by ill ness and poor health, but loved by so many, Michael was setting off to see the world, and the world was opening itself up to him.

In New York, even as he delighted in shopping and capturing the sights of the Big Apple with his own disposable camera, Michael grew progressively weaker until he had to be wheeled around by Sister Sol, herself not entirely nimble due to arthritic knees. But "he enjoyed switching roles with me," recalls Sister Sol, "and day and night we had wonderful exchanges of insights, questions and answers. A rare friendship indeed!"

Writes Sister Sol: "I do not think that there was another child in that gathering who was personally known to so many people among the rank and file as well as the high and the mighty, from security guards to Queen Sophia of Sweden, as Michael. Those in the registration tent remember him as the child who had his UN ID photo taken with a star on his forehead in imitation of the women delegates from India."

* * *

FROM NEW YORK, they proceeded to Rome where they had the great fortune of taking part in an audience with the Pope, and then took part in the conference.

From Rome, Sister Sol and Michael boarded a train to Lourdes, where Sister Sol had hoped to obtain a miracle that would finally free her ward from the burdens of the disease he had been born with. At the grotto, recalls Sister Sol, Michael asked "What if I don't get cured?" "At that time it was far from my mind to answer him 'You will go to heaven.' I clung to the belief that he would be given borrowed time to be with us longer and so I said, 'Well, you can help Jesus win graces for all those in need.'"

By this time, Michael had begun experiencing tremors, and so Sister Sol decided to consult the doctors at Lourdes who ordered a brain scan which detected a small lesion. The boy was then ordered confined in a hospital in Tarbes, 15 minutes away by car from Lourdes. He stayed more than a week in hospital, falling into a coma in the last seven days, and passed away on May 31. As a priest consoled Sister Sol: "Michael went to Lourdes for physical healing but was given eternal healing."

On the 40th day after Michael's passing, on Tuesday, July 9, his friends and family from Nazareth Home and elsewhere are holding a Mass and memorial service at the Santuario del Amor Divino ossuary of Sta. Clara de Montefalco Parish Church in Pasig City, after which his ashes will be the first to be placed in the St. John Eudes section, near the altar. St. John Eudes is the Father of the Good Shepherd Sisters and patron saint of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

In his memory, too, friends have initiated a Michael Christopher Endowment Fund for the Third World Movement's Care and Support Program. Those interested in making donations may call TW-MAE-W at 913-9255 or e-mail Sister Sol at sol_perpinan@hotmail.com. It will be such a simple way of remembering a remarkable boy.

Confusion over dates of birth

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

E-MAIL response to last Friday's column on Apolinario Mabini's birthday led me to look up the conflicting sources and continue the inquiry by checking the birthdays of other heroes. This exercise made me realize what people mean when they talk about splitting hairs. I might add that it wasn't as simple as cutting off split ends. There are not two but three dates given for Mabini's birth. Rafael Palma, a contemporary of Mabini, says June 22. Teodoro Kalaw, Manuel Artigas y Cuerva and Alejandro Mabini, last surviving brother of the hero interviewed by Cesar Majul in 1958, give July 22. Most popular and officially celebrated is July 23, 1864, the date of Mabini's baptism, feast of San Apolinario and the date Mabini himself considered his birthday.

June 22 is so far-out it is not even considered. While Mabini's baptismal certificate is used to settle the issue, it can be interpreted both ways depending on whether the reader favors July 22 or 23. On his baptism on July 23, 1864 Mabini was described as a child a day old (*de un dia nacido*). Teodoro Agoncillo takes this literally as a child born a day before hence July 22, adding that it was unlikely that Mabini was brought on a six-kilometer rough trail to the Tanauan Church for baptism immediately after delivery. However, priests in the 19th century and earlier often reckoned a child a day old on the day of birth. Counting began at birth, not the day after, hence since Mabini was *de un dia nacido* on July 23 he was born the same day. If he was born on July 22 he would be described as *de dos dias nacido* or a child two days old.

In the case of Jose Rizal, who was born literally a stone's throw away from the Calamba Church, he was baptized on June 22, 1861, three days from birth. Rizal's baptismal certificate does not indicate or suggest the date of birth. Why June 19? It's the feast of San Protacio and the date Rizal himself gave in his student diary. One could very well raise the issue against June 19, 1861 as Rizal's birthday, but then why bother?

Gregorio Aglipay is one man with three birthdays: May 7 according to Isabelo de los Reyes, W.E. Retana and John Foreman; May 9 is the date favored by James Robertson (who cited Retana wrongly) and Manuel Artigas y Cuerva; May 8 is the date made official by the Philippines Historical Committee as Aglipay, in his lifetime, celebrated his birthday on this date. Jesuit historians Pedro Achutegui and Miguel Bernad traveled all the way to Ilocos Norte in 1957 to check church records that eventually proved all of the above wrong!

Gregorio Aglipay Cruz was baptized on May 9, 1860 by Fr. Domingo Agbayani, coadjutor of Batac. In the certificate Aglipay is described as child five days old (*niño de cinco dias*), legitimate son of Pedro Aglipay Cruz and Victoriana Labayen Hilario of the Barangay of D. Bartolome Pobre of Paoay. Thus, Aglipay got his name from St. Gregory Nazianzen whose feast fell on the day of his baptism May 9, 1860. If one counts back five days to Aglipay's birth, he was actually born on May 5, 1860.

Emilio Aguinaldo opens his Memoirs of the Revolution thus:

"According to my solicitous and loving mother, I was born at daybreak of Holy Monday, March 22, 1869, in the town of Cavite el Viejo, now Kawit, Cavite. For three days, from the Friday before the Holy Week through Monday, my mother suffered unbearable labor pains which she never experienced in giving birth to her other seven children. The attending midwife and her assistant could not ease her pains. They were just ready to give up when my father thought of a most extraordinary plan to save my mother. Surreptitiously, he went downstairs to light a *berso* (giant firecracker). The sudden loud explosion startled my mother and, without much ado, I saw the light of day...

"When I was baptized, my father chose the name Emilio because he did not like the more ostentatious names like Deogracias or Bienvenido (names found in the calendar for March 22). He scanned all the names for all months and he was attracted to the name Emilio. San Emilio is a martyr of the Catholic faith who was born on May 28..."

Castus and Emilius were martyrs to the faith. They were not born on May 28, they were burned to death May 22 around 250 A.D. Worse, the eminent historian of Cavite, Isagani Medina, reproduces Aguinaldo's baptismal certificate in the hefty book he edited and annotated "Ilang Talata tungkol sa Paghihimagsik Revolucion nang 1896-1897" by Carlos Ronquillo it reads:

"On 29 March 1869 in this parochial church of Cavite el Viejo...Andres Galdeano de Santa Ana, Agustino Descalzo, parish priest...solemnly baptized and imposed the holy oils on a child of three days (*un niño de tres dias nacido*) and given the name Emilio Aguinaldo..."

He is also described as a *mestizo sangley* (Chinese *mestizo*), his parents are Carlos Aguinaldo and Trinidad Famy. Thus, Aguinaldo himself is wrong about his own birthday. Professor Medina, counting three days backwards, gives Aguinaldo's birthday as March 26, 1869. If we follow the old usage it should be March 27. All this proves that there is much research and rewriting of Philippine history to be done.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Married thrice!

HIGH BLOOD

Raymunda P. Ortega

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

I GOT married for the third time at 69, and my bridegroom, who is 72, also stood at the altar of the Manila Metropolitan Cathedral to pronounce his vows with me once more. Yes, it was our golden wedding anniversary on Oct. 13, 2001. We were first married on Oct. 13, 1951 at the Quiapo Church. I was 19 and my bridegroom was 22.

In 1976, we celebrated our silver anniversary with a renewal of vows at our parish church in Project 8, Quezon City, attended by family, relatives and friends, and had a simple dinner reception afterwards at home. That was the second time we married each other.

This time, since it was our 50th year of togetherness, our children—all nine of them—thought it but fitting and proper to really celebrate the occasion since only a few couples are able to reach such a milestone in their married lives. Hence, our golden wedding anniversary was (by our simple standards of living) a truly lavish one. Our children went all out, sparing no expenses, labor and time, in ensuring a successful celebration. They contracted one of the plushiest hotels in Metro Manila for the reception after the church rites. It was very exciting being pampered by everyone involved in the preparations like a bride getting married for the first time.

As everyone greeted us on that momentous day, it was evident they, and us too, marveled at the greatness of God's mercy giving us a half century of life together, begetting and raising nine children through thick and thin, educating them and helping them grow into maturity and onwards to what they are now, secure and successful in their own profession, with five of them having families of their own.

In the 50 years that have passed since Oct. 13, 1951, my husband and I have undergone so many memorable experiences. They included problems of different sizes, colors and gravity, successes and failures, financial and otherwise, health and illnesses in the family, numerous incidents alternating between funny and tragic, too many to enumerate or elaborate.

In the early years of our marriage, with both of us employed (he in the private sector and I in government service), our perennial problem was in getting and keeping domestic helpers (*yayas*, etc.) especially during the years our children were arriving one after another in intervals of less than two years apart. There was always a newly born baby to take care of, plus one or two of the older ones still babies themselves. Rare was the housemaid at the time who would stay on in a household full of pre-school kids still unable to fend for themselves, with their parents leaving early in the morning and coming home late in the evening. Even now, seldom are there martyrs among house helps. What was common in our home then was either I or my husband would be absent from work whenever "Inday" would choose to leave us for greener or more comfortable pastures elsewhere. We did have one reliable, dependable, lovable, loyal "martyr," during those years, and that was my own mother, my Mama, who for those 15-or-so years of my marriage was always on hand, ready and willing to sacrifice herself for her grandchildren. To her, and to my Papa as well, I pay tribute in this article about my marriage.

On the financial and material aspect, those early years saw us struggling, scrimping, always trying to make both ends meet with our meager salaries. God however was always with us every step of the way. He saw to it that we had ample food on the table at meal times, sufficient provisions for clothing, shelter, education and other needs of our family especially those of the children. Although educated in public schools (only our first born went through elementary and high school in a private school), all nine of them were successful in their chosen careers.

Now nearing the twilight of our lives, I find it enjoyable to go back in time to reflect on and relive the significant events that we had encountered. I see to it that my husband reminisces with me. It seems that men have shorter memories than women in remembering details of the past, especially the really unpleasant ones. I myself do not dwell long on the bitter and unpleasant, so we go over most of the time to the really happy occasion of our past.

Suddenly we woke up to the fact that our children had grown up and we no longer had the burden of raising a family on our shoulders. We have graduated from that. We hope the Lord gives us passing grades on that. What remains is for us to do His will in the remaining time He has earmarked for us, to make ourselves still available to help others in any way and every way we can, particularly our nine children and 12 grandchildren. It is the best way we can show our gratitude to Him who has nurtured us, cared for us and stood by us even during those times we stumbled and fell. It is our best way of thanking Him for blessing us with a beautiful golden wedding anniversary celebration, giving us the chance to get married to one another for the third time.

Raymunda P. Ortega, 70, used to work at the Regional Trial Court, Branch 87 of Quezon City.

THEY SAID

Priestly fatherhood

"I see my fatherhood in the context of servant leadership. The father as a servant leader...priestly fatherhood, not biological fatherhood."
—Fr. Anton Pascual on his mission of helping provide food for thousands of kids in Metro Manila and Luzon

Been there, done that

"As a former Speaker of the House, I've been admired and betrayed. I have experienced the worst. So I just watch them when they fight in the session hall of the Senate."
—Sen. Manuel Villar on not being surprised at reports of senators jumping ship

Real people

"They were real people who believed in what they were doing and they gave their life for it."
—Former Kansas Sen. Bob Dole said of the Burnham family

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Give DOLE chief more time

THIS is my reaction to the letter of Elmer Labog, national secretary general of the Kilusang Mayo Uno. (PDI, 6/26/02)

Let us give Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas more time. It is too early to demand for her ouster. Not all workers are dissatisfied with her performance. I am not defending Sto. Tomas but allow me to present my views on the issues presented by Labog.

1. Globalization may be anti-labor but it is not authored by the present administration.

2. Wage increase should not be demanded, it should be a result of productivity. Contented cows give contented milk.

3. Employers and employees are both under the protection of law. No investor will open a business if there is no assurance of profit. If there are no employers there can be no employees.

4. Issuance of temporary restraining orders and return to work orders are within the law. Labor can also use the labor laws to attain their objectives.

5. The Department of Labor and and Employment's Department Order 18-02 widens the right and privileges of workers, prohibits labor only contracting and defines the role of contractors, workers and principals and provides the mechanism for registration, monitoring and improvement of labor standard and working conditions.

6. The alleged rampant criminalization of labor disputes should be defined and documented to pinpoint responsibility and liability.

7. The reinstatement of Light Rail Transit workers and the Nestlé strike are still pending issues. Let us wait for the outcome. Do not remove the pilot in the middle of a storm.

8. Dispersals of strike and protests are debatable issues. Let the court of law decide who are the offenders.

9. It is but proper to promote any labor policy of the government which were intended for the protection of our workers abroad.

10. The proposal to legalize prostitution is not even a bill filed in Congress. It is a product of good intention to protect sex workers and even their patrons. Let our lawmakers decide on the issue.

A great majority of our workers are employed by multinational firms which the government invited to invest in our country. Wage increase will always depend on productivity. Labor expenses is only one of the many important requirements to run a business. Let labor and management join hands in improving production.

—REV. C. SAMMY SAMONTE,
director, Student and External
Affairs Department, University of
Batangas, Batangas City

Shameful coverage of Ecleo affair

WE are aghast and shocked at the brazen and shameful behavior of Sen. Robert Barbers on television in his meddling and intervention with the police during the recent arrest and the public presentation of the apparently unrepentant and arrogant wife-killer Ruben Ecleo Jr.

To what lengths of disrespect for the law and embarassing grandstanding can we allow politicians like Barbers to go so that they can play hero, arresting officer, mediator/negotiator, protector of Ruben and Rep. Glenda Ecleo—all with an eye to keeping the cult members' votes when election time rolls around? In the circus atmosphere that prevailed, the real heroes of the day such as PNP Chief Supt. Alberto Olario and his men in Dinagat, the Cebu police, National Bureau of Investigation, members of the Philippine Army, Air Force and Navy who responded to the Bacolod family massacre, Judge Ariezgado who issued the warrant, and the Bacolod family who exercised bravery and sacrifice throughout this sad and crazy episode were left out.

Even the TV reporters couldn't resist committing mistakes and instead of focusing on the police heroes such as Olario, Mendoza and Gualberto, etc., they just continued to give a lot of TV time to Barbers mumbling and blabbing on and on. What a real shame.

—ANNA MARIE SANTOS, 1222 J.P.
Rizal St., Makati City

CA ruling on safeguard tariff on cement

WE welcome the ruling of the Court of Appeals issued on June 21, 2002 ordering a status quo in the imposition of a safeguard tariff of P20.60 for every imported bag of cement.

We laud Trade Secretary Mar Roxas for his continued efforts to save the decades-old local cement industry and ensure a level playing field against imported cement.

The government should maintain a program of supporting endangered local industries for the sake of thousands of Filipino workers who may be displaced by the unabated flow of imports into the country.

As citizens, we should remain vigilant against the dumping of cheap imports as our economy continues to be prey to importing countries and its excess production like shoes, garments and even food.

For cement, countries like Taiwan, Indonesia, Japan and Thailand are frantically looking for countries where they can freely export their excess production.

Cement importers, many of whom are reportedly members of a Chinese syndicate, and their middlemen, are the only ones to profit if they disable the local cement industry.

The safeguard levy imposed since November 2001 has effectively controlled the entry into the country of imported cement. In fact, it has pushed down prices, benefiting industrial users and ordinary consumers of cement.

—AGNES VST DEVANADERA,
chair, Movement for Consumer
Power, Unit 502
Don Santiago Bldg.,
Taft Avenue, Manila

Hopeless in Tarlac

I WISH to react to the headlines, the editorial and inside stories re "Hopelessness of the Filipinos."

Although I wasn't one of those interviewed, if I were, I would describe a typical day for me. I bring my kids to school and I am caught in traffic because of the roads that are perpetually being fixed. It rained the night before, so the flooded streets compound the already existing problem. My kids are giggling at the sign of the bus in front of me—Look! No more *usok*—even as the bus spews out billows of black smoke, as do every other bus I meet. I enter a supposedly one-way road but slam on the brakes as a recent model car comes up and the policeman actually waves him through. There are two big boards on the highway that say tricycles are prohibited from using the highway and should stay on the shoulder, but in front, to my side and all the way back, I see tricycles all over the highway.

I go home and see I got mail, my electric bill of P3,578 and I don't even use the air conditioner. I note half of the bill is the PPA. By the way, the *tanod* delivers my mail, like once a week because the postman dumps all my letters (and probably my neighbors', too) with the *tanod*, and the tanod is the one who delivers them but the postman is the one who gets paid by the government, while I have to give the *tanod* a tip. I go to the Municipal Trial Court to follow up my case against someone who bumped my pick-up six months ago, and refused to pay. There is a warrant of arrest, I am informed, but it will be served if I know a policeman. I don't know any policeman, and the woman at the MTC shrugs. I go out and pick up my kids again, and the car in front of me throws out a whole bag of fast-food trash right outside the window, into the highway.

Yes, Finance Secretary Isidro Camacho, I pay my taxes but I can't even get basic service from the police and the postman! Yes, Madam Olivares, I am one of those who tell my children that when they grow up, they better go abroad. Yes, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, I do feel hopeless.

—DITAS ROXAS, Tarlac City

Make Manila live again

LAST week, I saw Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's TV show celebrating the birth of his "Buhayin ang Maynila" project.

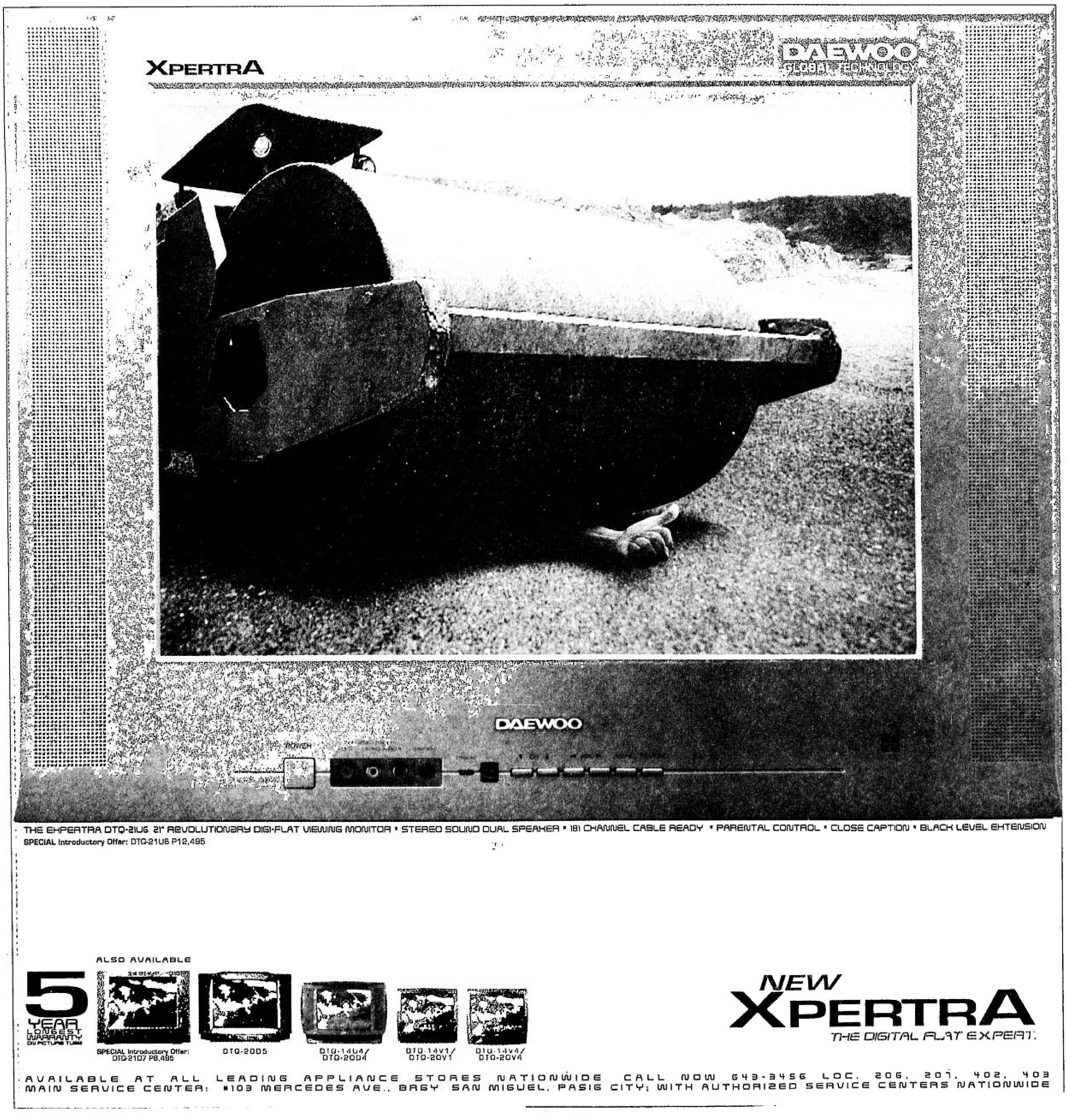
Finally. We seem to have a local official with a vision and purpose for his constituents, and with the energy and will to act on them. Let us all pray that the Manileños will respond actively in pursuing this project to its fruition and success.

Let us all refrain from carping, criticizing, nitpicking and belittling the mayor's efforts in pursuing this worthy project. This is not yet the time for any disparaging comments. Give Atienza the time necessary to properly implement and finish this long-needed change. This much is owed him for simply having the will to embark on it. Rather the Manileños should join the mayor not only in spirit but in deed to assure the success of this project.

Kudos to Mayor Atienza. His success will be Manila's and the country's gain. We look forward to seeing the New Manila and meeting the new Manileños.

We pray that other mayors will do the same.

—JUN PASIMIO, BF Homes
Parañaque City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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

TWO firefighters inspect burning parts of a crashed airplane near Ueberlingen in the southwest of Germany July 2. At least 70 people were feared dead after a Russian plane traveling from Moscow to Barcelona ignored warnings from ground control and collided with a cargo plane over southern Germany late on Monday. REUTERS

Russian, cargo planes collide over Germany

UEBERLINGEN, Germany—At least 70 people, almost all Russians, died after a plane traveling from Moscow to Barcelona ignored warnings from ground control and collided with a cargo plane over southern Germany late on Monday.

Officials said on Tuesday the two aircraft crashed in mid-air at 2140 GMT (5:40 a.m. in Manila) above Lake Constance on the German-Swiss border, spreading debris over a wide area and setting a number of buildings including a school on fire.

"I was lying in my bed, saw a ball of fire in the sky and ran out onto the balcony. Behind the forest it looked like a firework display was going off," said Klaus-Dieter Schindler, janitor at a school in the village of Owingen.

"In the glow of the fire I saw wreckage falling out of the sky. It looked like black rain," he said. The landing gear of the Tupolev lay burning just a few hundred meters away.

Ulrich Mueller, transport minister in the German state of Baden-Wurttemberg where the accident occurred, said Swiss air traffic control had repeatedly told the Russian Bashkirian Airlines Tupolev 154 to reduce altitude to avoid a crash.

The pilot ignored the requests and, despite efforts by the Boeing 757 cargo plane to avoid an accident, the two planes collided.

"Ground control demanded that the Tupolev lower its altitude. Despite several calls, it did not react," Mueller said. "We have to assume right now that this was a misunderstanding."

Hans-Peter Walser, regional police chief in the southwest German city of Ueberlingen, added: "At the moment there are no reasons to believe this has a criminal background."

Rescue workers found 11 bodies and the Tupolev's flight data recorder, vital for investigating the accident.

Helicopters equipped with infra-red cameras clattered overhead as 500 rescue workers combed the area seeking victims and examining wreckage strewn over an area about 40 km long. Some 15 boats criss-crossed the lake.

"We've got body parts here," one official called through on a police radio overheard on the scene.

Officials warned locals that human remains could be strewn across a wide area of the resort region on the Swiss border.

Officials said there were 12 crew and 57 passengers on board the Tupolev, all Russians. Moscow's Domodedovo airport said about 50 of them were under 18 years old.

The Boeing 757 cargo plane carried two pilots and a load of mail and packages. Officials said they did not believe anyone on the ground had been killed.

Reporters on the scene saw the charred tail of the Russian plane in a field surrounded by apple trees. About a kilometer away was what appeared to be part of the wing.

The airline, based in Russia's oil-rich Muslim Republic of Bashkortostan, was one of many to emerge from the break-up of state airliner Aeroflot after the collapse of the Soviet Union. It relies mainly on a fleet of Tu-154s, one of the most common Russian planes used for medium-range flights.

The two planes were flying at an altitude of 12,000 meters above Ueberlingen on the northwest end of Lake Constance when they collided, officials said.

"What I saw looked like a big dark orange light that lasted several seconds and changed in size, first big then small," one eyewitness told German radio.

A spokeswoman for German flight control said one of two reasons would explain such a crash: either ground controllers had entered incorrect data for the flight paths, or one of the two planes had failed to follow its approved flight path. *Reuters*

Pinochet may never face charges for rights abuses during his rule

SANTIAGO—Augusto Pinochet, Chile's aging former dictator, likely will never face charges for human rights abuses committed during his 17-year rule after the Supreme Court Monday ruled him mentally incompetent to stand trial.

The four-to-one vote ended the two-year battle to hold the 86-year-old retired general accountable on charges he participated in the execution of political opponents by a military squad known as the "Caravan of Death."

Lawyers pursuing Pinochet said they would continue to pursue cases against other participants in the killings, but said the decision was broad enough to affect other cases they might file against the retired general.

"We are at the threshold at which all cases against Pinochet may be thrown out when the defense cites this finding in any further court papers," lawyer Hugo Gutierrez said.

It was not for lack of evidence but for mental incompetence that the "Caravan of Death" case was closed, he said.

"That is to say, he was not acquitted, found innocent nor was it dismissed for lack of evidence, but because he suffers from a mental illness that impedes his judgment," Gutierrez said.

Pinochet, who came to power after a bloody September 1973 coup, is accused of having ordered troops to roam the country in pursuit of opposition leaders, 75 of whom were killed.

PINOCHET

"I think it's terrible because Pinochet will continue to evade responsibility for the violations of human rights," said Viviana Diaz, president of the Group of Families of the Detained and Disappeared.

Echoing Diaz's words were those of Human Rights Watch, the New York-based human rights activists which called the widely expected decision "regrettable."

"Relatives of thousands of victims of Pinochet's rule will be deeply disappointed by this verdict, and the medical and legal grounds for the decision will continue to be disputed," said HRW's Americas division executive director Jose Miguel Vivanco.

"Even so, Pinochet's arrest in London in 1998 and his subsequent prosecution in Chile—where he had enjoyed untrammeled power for two decades—were historic events marking new possibilities for international justice."

Monday's decision came after the high court last year upheld an appeals court verdict finding that Pinochet suffered from dementia and would be unable to mount his own defense, court spokesman Carlos Meneses said.

Pinochet's problems with the legal system began in October 1998 when he was arrested under a Spanish warrant while in a London for a back operation.

However, British Home Secretary Jack Straw let him return to Chile in March 2000 for health reasons, putting an end to the 503-day detention. Upon his return, Chile's high court stripped Pinochet of his parliamentary immunity shortly before he was placed under house arrest while a judge investigated the "Caravan of Death."

The operation was launched shortly after the bloody September 1973 coup toppling president Salvador Allende, the only Marxist in the world ever to be elected to power. Pinochet tossed off responsibility for the more than 3,000 killed during his reign by saying he was merely fighting communism.

Shortly after the coup, Pinochet headed the four-man military junta until he installed one-man rule a year later, which he held until 1990, when he was replaced by an elected president. *AFP*

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US jets bomb Afghan wedding party; 40 villagers killed

KABUL—The Afghan government and US military Tuesday began investigating an apparent accidental bombing of a wedding party in central Afghanistan that locals say killed 40 people, as villagers began mourning the dead.

US helicopters were ferrying a team of soldiers from Bagram Air Base 50 km north of here to the remote village of Dehrawad in Uruzgan province, 400 km southwest of the Afghan capital.

"Because of the disparity of the reports the Afghan government in conjunction with the (US-led) coalition is going to send a team down . . . to do an investigation," US military chief spokesman in Afghanistan, Lieutenant Colonel Roger King, told AFP by phone from Bagram.

US military officials say a bomb went astray during an air attack that was launched after a coalition reconnaissance mission was fired by anti-aircraft artillery near the village of Tirin Kot, 30 km east of Dherawad.

The region around Tarin Khowt was believed to be a stronghold of fighters loyal to Mullah Mohammad Omar, the fugitive leader of the ousted Taliban regime.

US forces recently launched an operation to hunt down Mullah Omar, whose ancestral home was in Dherawad according to the Afghan Islamic Press.

"The fire that we received from the ground, that would probably be the heaviest fire we've seen in at least a month," King said.

King said the coalition reconnaissance mission had included a pre-planned strike by a B-52 bomber on a previously identified anti-aircraft artillery site that had fired in the past on US forces.

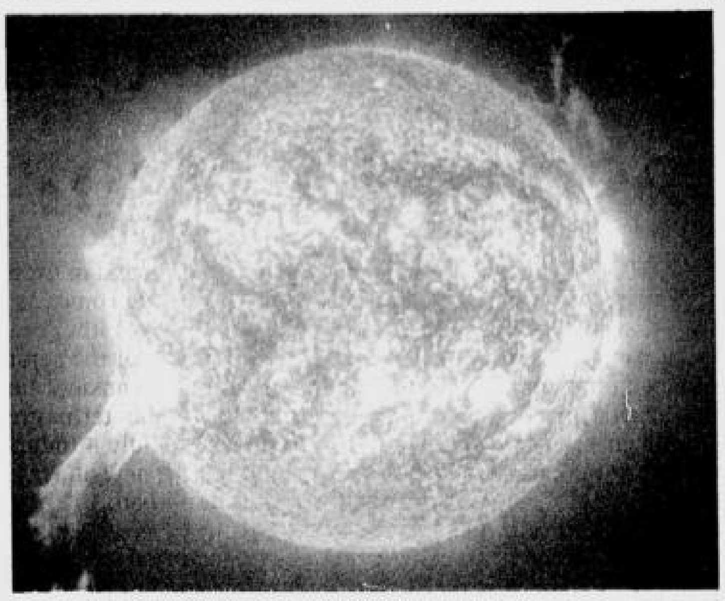
The B-52 fighter jet dropped precision-guided bombs against an anti-aircraft weapons site that was away from Tarin Khowt, King added, confirming that one of the bombs went astray.

The anti-aircraft weapon that fired on an AC-130 accompanying the B-52 was different from another one which had been targeted for the B-52 strike, he said.

"We don't know anything about a wedding party," King said.

Karzai, in a state radio broadcast, said "a number" of people had died, ordered emergency assistance for Dherawad and announced a top-level inquiry.

"We have learned with regret that a number of our compatriots have been martyred and injured as a result of accidental bombing in Dehrawad district," the president said. **AFP**



FURIOUS SUN REUTERS

A massive solar eruption, more than 30 times the length of Earth's diameter, blasted away from the Sun on July 1 and a satellite captured graphic images of the event. The eruption showed up in a picture taken by one instrument of the SOHO satellite as a fiery-looking "leg" in the lower-left corner of the image, scientists said in a statement.

Israel cracks down on settler outposts

TEL AVIV—Israeli Defense Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer said Monday his troops had dismantled sites illegally built by Jewish settlers in the West Bank while pressing on with their crackdown on militants, killing a top bombmaker of the Islamic radical group Hamas.

Palestinian officials meanwhile criticized US pressure to drop Yasser Arafat in return for Washington's backing in their bid for an independent state, as Israeli forces remained in seven of the eight key West Bank towns and cities as part of their prolonged operation against hardliners.

Ben Eliezer, a Labor hawk who later Monday faced his first party congress as the leftist formation's leader, said: "Out of 34 illegal settlement points, we drew up a list of 21 to be evacuated, and 11 were cleared yesterday."

The minister told public radio he hoped 10 others would be broken up "within two or three weeks."

Army radio said that only two of the settlements dismantled Sunday were occupied, adding that they were cleared voluntarily. Jewish settlers said there had been no incidents, but warned they would establish new settlements.

Analysts said they doubted the evacuations would herald a widespread crackdown on the settlements built on Palestinian land, seen by the international community as illegal.

The so-called wildcat settlements are usually no more than a handful of tents or caravans set up by Jewish settlers to stake a claim to land occupied since the 1967 Middle East war.

However, their construction requires protection by the Israeli army from Palestinian militants. There has been a growing call that the more isolated and hard to protect sites be abandoned.

The anti-settlement group Peace Now said Sunday that since the government of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon took power 16 months ago, 44 new settlement sites had been built, and accused the defense ministry of making "spurious" claims about scrapping settlements.

The move was seen by right-wing groups as a sop by Ben Eliezer before his party congress, while anti-settlement groups accused the minister of doing nothing to effectively stem the development of new settlement sites. **AFP**

No sign of Nokor military activity, Japan says

TOKYO—Japan's defense minister, Gen Nakatani, said on Tuesday there were no signs of fresh action by North Korean forces after a deadly clash with the South on the weekend, and Tokyo did not expect the situation to worsen.

"There is a low possibility of the situation deteriorating further," Kyodo news agency quoted Nakatani as telling a panel on diplomatic and security matters in parliament's Upper House.

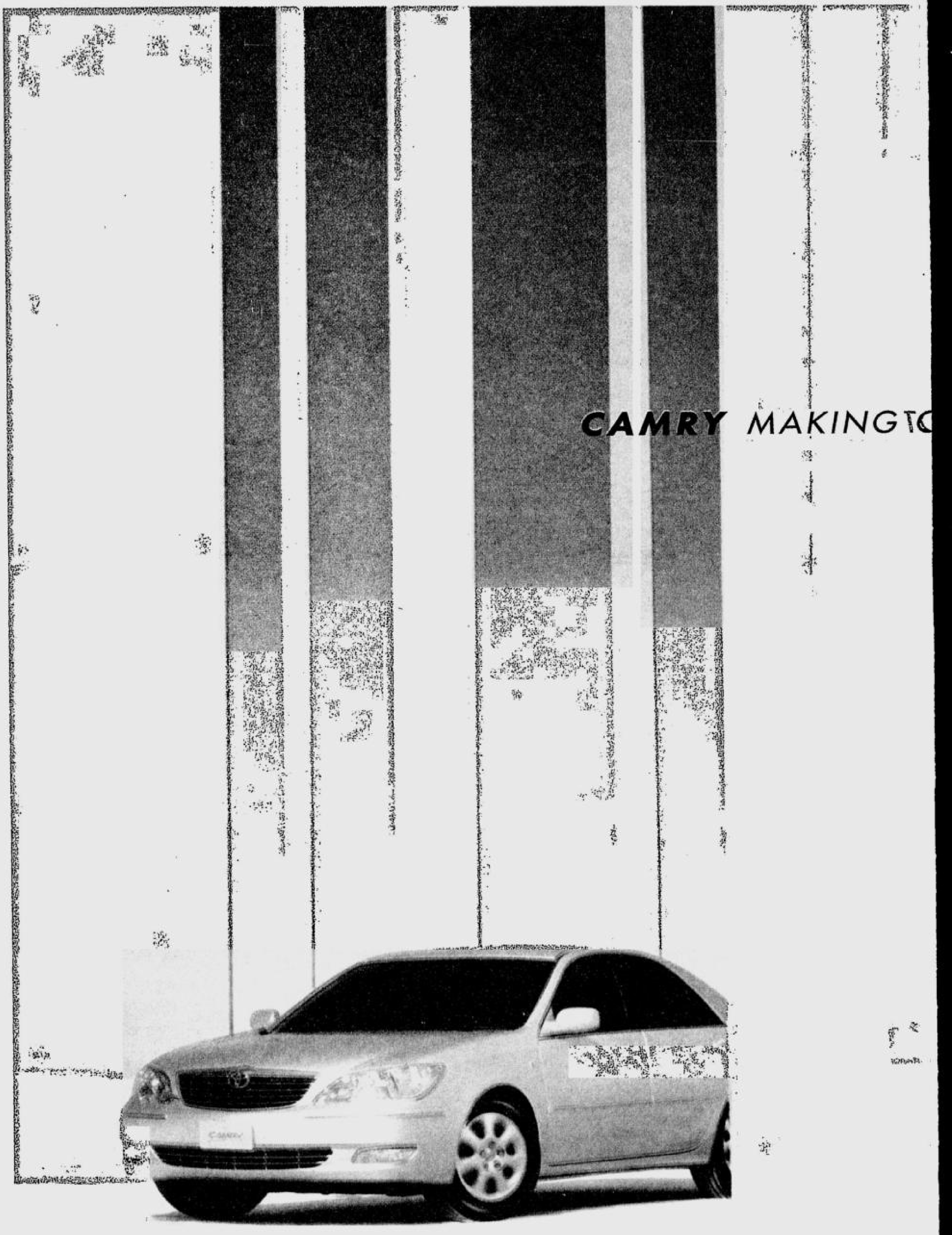
Japan beefed up its air defense patrols after two North Korean patrol boats crossed a disputed sea border on Saturday and fired on South Korean boats, killing four South Korean sailors and wounding 19 in the worst clash in three years.

The United States has described the battle as an "armed provocation" by the North and agreed on Monday to step up border surveillance with South Korea's military.

Pyongyang, however, accused the United States of staging the clash to strain ties between the divided neighbors, a charge Washington swiftly rejected as "spurious."

Hitoshi Tanaka, director general of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau at Japan's foreign ministry, told the same committee he believed the incident had happened more or less accidentally, Kyodo said.

The clash was a stark reminder that the Korean peninsula remains a potential flashpoint half a century after the Korean war ended without a peace treaty. **Reuters**



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Americans around the globe face possible terror attacks, US warns

WASHINGTON—The State Department warned Monday—just days before the July 4 holiday—it had credible information that Americans around the globe could face imminent terror attacks including suicide assaults.

"The US government continues to receive credible indications that extremist individuals are planning additional terrorist actions against US interests," said an update of the department's Worldwide Caution for US citizens.

"Such actions may be imminent and include suicide operations," said the warning, which supersedes an earlier caution issued in March.

"We have no further information on specific targets, timing or method of attack. We remind American citizens to remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and to exercise caution."

The warning comes as many Americans prepare to either travel abroad, or return home for the summer holidays, and amid high anxiety among US security officials that terror groups could try to mark the July 4 Independence Day holiday with new attacks in the United States or abroad.

"Terrorist groups do not distinguish between official and civilian targets," the caution said.

And as security is stepped up at US installations abroad, terrorists could turn to "softer" targets such as facilities where Americans gather, including churches, restaurants and clubs, the department warned.

"Americans should increase their security awareness when they are at such locations, avoid them, or switch to other locations where Americans in large numbers generally do not congregate," the warning said.

"American citizens may be targeted for kidnapping."

US officials put Americans abroad on high alert following September 11 terror attacks in which some 3,000 died.

No countries were specifically mentioned in Monday's warning, but areas of high risk for Americans include South Asia, the Gulf states, the Middle East and parts of Southeast Asia.

In March, the wife and stepdaughter of a US diplomat were among five people killed in a church bombing in the diplomatic quarter of Islamabad.

The previous worldwide caution, which also mentioned the possibility of terror assaults was released in the immediate aftermath of that attack.

US journalist Daniel Pearl, who worked for the Wall Street Journal, was killed earlier this year after he was abducted in Pakistan.

In the Philippines, a US missionary couple was held hostage by the Abu Sayyaf Muslim rebel group, which has been linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida.

One of the missionaries, Martin Burnham, was killed in a rescue attempt by Philippine troops, along with a Filipina hostage.

In an earlier attack, in October 2000, 17 US sailors were killed and 39 injured in an attack on the US destroyer USS Cole in Aden, Yemen, an assault blamed on the al-Qaida network. *AFP*

WHO'S AFRAID OF A PAPER TIGER! AFP
A French poodle begs for attention while it waits for its owner outside a tattoo parlor in Sydney, July 2.

100 nations vow US won't sabotage war crimes court

UNITED NATIONS—More than 100 nations hailed the birth of the world's first International Criminal Court on Monday as a landmark for global justice, vowing that its mission to prosecute and deter future war criminals will not be sabotaged by US opposition.

The new court's main targets are the future Pol Pots and Adolf Hitlers of the world. It will prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes on or after July 1—but the United States fears the court could go after Americans in frivolous political prosecutions.

At the start of the final two-week meeting of the commission that has been preparing for the court's operation, speakers from around the world hailed the historic entry into force of the 1998 Rome treaty establishing the court, calling it the greatest advance in international law since the Nuremberg and Tokyo trials for World War II's German and Japanese war criminals.

"The past century witnessed the worst crimes in the history of mankind," said Denmark's UN Ambassador Ellen Margrethe Loj, speaking on behalf of the European Union, whose 15 members have all ratified the treaty.

"Yet, few perpetrators have been brought to justice. Let us together establish a credible, fair and effective International Criminal Court which will serve as a deterrent—as a signal that impunity will no longer be tolerated," she said.

The Rome treaty received its 75th ratification Monday morning from Australia. It has 139 signatures—including the United States. Former US President Bill Clinton signed the treaty, but the Bush administration announced in May it wants nothing to do with the court, and at Monday's meeting, the US seat was empty.

Standing alone, and against its closest allies, the United States is demanding immunity from the court for American peacekeepers—and is threatening to end the 1,500-strong UN police training mission in Bosnia at midnight Wednesday if it doesn't get it.

The United States has also warned that all UN peacekeeping is at stake, which could have serious ramifications from the Middle East to Africa, Cyprus and Afghanistan. The mandates for four UN peacekeeping missions expire this month—Lebanon, Georgia, Western Sahara and the enclave of Prevlaka in Croatia. *AP*

Taiwan tycoons leave for China

TAIPEI—A group of top Taiwan executives left for Beijing on Tuesday, days after China renewed calls for private business to spearhead talks to end a five-decade ban on direct transport links between the two sides.

The delegation was headed by tycoon Jeffrey Koo, chairman of Taiwan's Chinatrust Financial Holdings which is one of the island's leading financial institutions. Koo is also a nephew of Koo Chen-fu, Taiwan's top envoy on China affairs.

Other team members included Kao Chin-yen, chairman of food giant Uni-President and an executive of Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, the world's top contract chipmaker.

Beijing renewed a call for private businesses to spearhead talks on ending the transport ban and China has agreed to allow industrial bodies from either side of the Taiwan Strait to sign deals on which ports and airports could be opened.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin is likely to meet the delegation on Wednesday or Thursday, the mass circulation United Daily News said.

In May, China invited Kao and Wang Yung-ching, chairman of Taiwan's petrochemical giant Formosa Plastics Group, to discuss the opening of direct trade, transport and postal links.

Last week, three delegations of Taiwan legislators visited China for talks on ending the three links.

The visits followed Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian's offer to let private groups conduct talks on opening the three links.

Reuters

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US judge declares federal death penalty unconstitutional

NEW YORK—A judge has declared that the federal death penalty is equivalent to the "state-sponsored murder" of innocents—fueling the growing debate about the use of capital punishment.

US District Judge Jed Rakoff found the federal death penalty unconstitutional, ruling too many innocent people have been executed before they could be exonerated.

Rakoff decided the current law "denies due process and, indeed, is tantamount to foreseeable, state-sponsored murder of innocent human beings."

Rakoff is the first federal judge to declare the 1994 Death Penalty Act unconstitutional, said Lee Ginsberg, lawyer for the defendant whose case led to the decision.

The ruling will not affect individual states' death penalty statutes. Thirty-eight states allow capital punishment, although some have not executed anyone for many years. The governors of Illinois and Maryland have placed moratoriums on executions in their states.

Ginsberg said the Rakoff decision was further proof the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court, has begun to seriously question the wisdom of the death penalty.

"I think there is a subtle shift taking place over the past few years," said Ginsberg. "Some of the more conservative judges are beginning to have serious doubts."

The government was expected to appeal Monday's ruling.

Rakoff said in his 28-page ruling that the 1994 law violated the due process rights of defendants. Prosecutors argued the Supreme Court already has concluded that the Constitution's due process safeguards do not guarantee perfect or infallible outcomes.

The judge found that the best available evidence indicates that, "on the one hand, innocent people are sentenced to death with materially greater frequency than was previously supposed and that, on the other hand, convincing proof of their innocence often does not emerge until long after their convictions."

He said he based his findings on studies of state death penalty cases, because the number of federal death sentences—31—was too small to draw any conclusions. The judge did not cite specific cases.

Only two people, Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh and drug killer Juan Garza, have been executed under the federal law. Of the remaining 29, five were reversed. The government said none of the 31 defendants was later found to be innocent. *AP*

Great-great grandma dies after hunger protest

LONDON—One of Britain's oldest women has died aged 108 after a month-long hunger strike in protest at being moved to another care home, according to her granddaughter.

Alice Knight, a great-great grandmother, refused food and medical care after she had to transfer to a new private residential home because her previous home had closed due to lack of funds.

"She made the conscious decision not to live and starved herself to death," Knight's granddaughter, Diane Self, told the Daily Telegraph. "She would have been alive today if it had not been for the move."

Knight's death is the latest in a series of high-profile incidents in Britain's troubled health and social services sector and highlights a crisis afflicting the care sector, campaigners said.

Knight moved into her new home in May but she missed her old residence, where she had lived for six years, so much that after a few days she refused to eat or even open her eyes.

"It was awful. We watched her get thinner and thinner," said Self. "Her dignity was taken away from her in the last month of her life and it is a tragedy that we can treat our old people like this." *Reuters*

6.6 million in Asia-Pacific have AIDS/HIV, says UN report

PARIS—Some 6.6 million people were estimated to be infected with HIV or AIDS in the Asia-Pacific region at the end of last year, according to the latest UNAIDS report for 2002.

The figure published Tuesday puts the region as a whole in second place behind sub-Saharan Africa where the epidemic affected 28.5 million people, the Joint UN Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) said.

"This region serves as a reminder that no country is immune to a serious HIV epidemic," the report said.

"Low national prevalence rates conceal serious, localized epidemics in several areas, including China and India," it added.

In China, the epidemic is now spreading through heterosexual contact while previously it was transmitted mainly through injected drug use or unsafe blood donor practices which are believed to have infected 150,000.

Overall figures for China indicate that HIV infections rose more than 67 percent in the first six months of 2001.

About 850,000 Chinese were believed to be living with HIV/AIDS last year, UNAIDS added, though it acknowledged that data on China was sketchy.

India had an estimated 3.97 million people living with HIV/AIDS "more than in any other country besides South Africa" and the disease is spreading beyond high-risk groups, UNAIDS noted.

In Cambodia, the prevalence rate among men who have sex with men was 14 percent in 2000, about the same among Thai male prostitutes and up to 10 percent in several states in Malaysia.

Indonesia has enjoyed more than a decade of negligible HIV prevalence rates, but is now seeing infection rates rapidly increasing among drug users, sex workers and, in some places among blood donors, an indicator of the spread among the population at large. *AFP*

Singer Rosemary Clooney, 74

LOS ANGELES—American singer Rosemary Clooney, who began her career in the 1950s and rose to fame by appearing with Bing Crosby in the musical "White Christmas," died in Los Angeles late Saturday at the age of 74.

CLOONEY

Clooney, who received a lifetime achievement award at the annual Grammy music awards in February, died from lung cancer shortly after 6:00 pm at her Beverly Hills home, her long-time publicist, Linda Dozoretz, told reporters.

Clooney, who smoked for many years, underwent a lung operation in January but suffered a relapse.

Rosemary Clooney, who was born in Maysville, Kentucky, in 1928, began her professional career singing duets with her sister Betty on Cincinnati radio after the end of World War II.

In 1947 they performed in the East Coast gambling resort of Atlantic City as "The Clooney Sisters," accompanied by a professional band.

Two years later, Rosemary signed a solo recording contract with Columbia Records.

Her first single record, "Come On-a-My House," was immediately a hit and launched her career as a singer and subsequently a movie star.

Her most popular songs include "Our Love Is Here To Stay," "From this Moment On," "Old Man River," "I've Got My Love To Keep Me Warm" or "Thanks for the Memories."

At the height of her career, Clooney married Academy Award-winning actor Jose Ferrer. The couple had five children—Miguel, Maria, Gabriel, Monsita and Rafael. *AFP*

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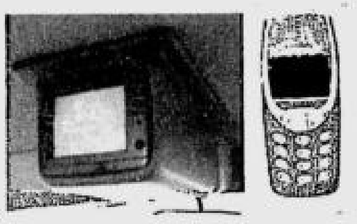

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FEATURES	PREGIO LS	TYT GRND	HYN STRX	MIT SPGR
Engine displacement	2665	2986	2476	2477
4 Captain's chairs	✓	—	—	—
All coil front suspension	✓	—	—	—
All coil rear suspension	✓	✓	✓	✓
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD w/ LCD TV	✓	—	—	—
Side mirrors w/ demister	✓	—	—	—
Roof rack w/ rails	✓	—	—	—
Alloy wheels	✓	—	✓	—
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3/75	2/50	2/50	2/50
SRP	P 854,000	P1,088,000	P876,000	P1,270,000

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- ** Financing applications are valid only for 24 mos. up to 60 mos. term
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FEATURES	PREGIO Festival	TYT HAGL	MIT EXC	NSN ESCPD
Engine displacement	2665	1998	2477	2663
Front all coil suspension	✓	—	—	—
Rear all coil suspension	✓	—	—	—
Swivelling 2nd row seat	✓	—	—	—
AUDIOVOX (USA) VCD with TV	✓	—	—	—
2-tone body colors	✓	—	✓	✓
Power features	✓	✓	✓	✓
Service warranty	3/75	2/50	2/50	2/50
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Fax No. (082)244-1771
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Puerto Princesa mayor faces recall

By Geraldford Ticke
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Mayor Victorino Dennis Socrates is now facing the greatest challenge to his administration after barangay officials of this city passed a resolution during a preparatory recall assembly (PRA) held at the Barangay San Jose Gym yesterday, seeking a recall election against him for alleged "loss of confidence."

The resolution was signed by 346 village chairpersons, councilmen and Sangguniang Kabataan chairs.

The recall issue stemmed from a statement issued by Socrates, saying that attending to barangay affairs is a "stupid function."

The village officials also lamented the significant slashing of budgets for the barangays.

Some officials also showed disgust to the present administration for bypassing them in their respective barangays and putting instead coordinators to attend to the needs of the people.

Security was tightened in the area to prevent a possible clash between supporters of both camps since only the street separated the Church where administration supporters held a vigil last night.

In the morning, Mass was held to commemorate the second anniversary of the plane crash in the island municipality of Cagayancillo that killed then governor Salvador Socrates, Maj. Gen. Santiago Madrid and 12 others, at the San Jose Parish church, just adjacent to the gym where the recall assembly was held.

Madrid's body was recovered but the 13 others were never found. Bruce Walker, an Australian was the lone survivor of the tragedy.

Right after the call to order, PRA interim secretary barangay captain Benjamin Jarilla announced the presence of a quorum, having collected a total of 386 signatories in the attendance sheet.

It was later cleared, however, that the official signatories to the resolution were only 346.

Socrates' representative to the assembly, lawyer Robert Peneyra, tried to question the figure but he was not given attention and recognition.

PRA chair and City Association of Barangay Captains president Mark David Hagedorn said he was not a member of the assembly.

The sergeants-at-arms then escorted him and his companions out of the gym upon a motion to declare them out of order. When he tried to do a head count, he said he was not allowed to do so.

He instead estimated the officials present to be only around 260.

The assembly elected its officials with Barangay Tiniguiban chair Earl Buenviaje as chair and presiding officer of the assembly.

After the assembly, Socrates called for a press conference at the city hall and questioned the just-concluded assembly, saying that what had just happened was a "moro-moro."

"We intend to file criminal charges of falsification against those who initiated this and the masterminds," Socrates said.

He particularly named former city mayor Edward Hagedorn, Sandy Sandoval and Congressman Abraham Mitra.

He accused Hagedorn and Sandoval of conniving to force the barangay officials to move for the recall while Mitra was also blamed for supporting the move.

Socrates also said some of the officials present were impostors.

An observer of the assembly claimed that some officials of Barangay Bahile were not present yet, she said, she saw the nine chairs reserved for Bahile were filled.

Buenviaje, however, said using impostors to reach the majority was impossible.

"First we follow the process and we are careful in doing this," he said.

He added that the DILG will scrutinize this and if there are impostors, "they will not recognize it"

SOCRATES

Urban poor start recall petition vs Cebu mayor

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—Members of the urban poor are initiating a recall petition against Mayor Tomas Osmeña whom they claimed have not addressed the problems of the city.

More than 100 members of the newly-formed Tomas Recall and Ouster (TRO) Movement trooped to the office of the Commission on Elections here on July 1 to file a notice of recall against Osmeña, who at that time was celebrating his first year anniversary as the city's chief executive.

The group later staged a rally in front of the Comelec office on Colon Street to demand Osmeña's ouster and to collect signatures for their petition.

Osmeña, however, said he believed that the group would not be able to generate enough signatures needed for petition to prosper.

"It's not because people love me or what, but it's because the people are not in the mood for these things," he told reporters.

"My only message for the Cebuanos is that I am ready to handle this kind of crisis. This is very disruptive for Cebu," he added.

Under the Local Government Code, a recall may be initiated either by a constituent assembly through a preparatory recall or initiated upon the petition of at least 25 percent of the city's total number of registered voters.

Records at the Comelec showed that the city's 80 barangays have a total of about 384,396 registered voters. The TRO Movement would need about 96,099 signatures of the city's registered voters for their petition to prosper.

The TRO Movement cited discontentment and loss of confidence as basis for their recall petition against Osmeña.

The group claimed that Osmeña failed to address the problem on peace and order as well as the proliferation of illegal drugs and illegal gambling.

They tagged Osmeña as "anti-poor" as evident by the series of demolition orders without first securing relocation sites for the affected families.

Urban poor leader Edward Ligas yesterday told the INQUIRER that they were no longer satisfied with Osmeña's performance.

"We are really serious in our move to have him recalled because the mayor has not addressed the plight of the urban poor," Ligas said. "We know that this is an uphill battle but we are confident that we will be successful."

Paul Rodriguez, Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) chair in Cebu, said they would support the recall petition, because Osmeña's policies failed to address the problems of the urban poor.

He said 13 people's organizations affiliated with Bayan would get the required number of signatures needed for the petition.

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Win-win solution to tuna war offered

TAGUM CITY—The Department of Agriculture vowed to end the "tuna war" between Davao and General Santos cities by allowing Davao fish traders to sell 1.2 to 3 tons daily of non-exportable tuna to the local market.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the proposed formula, which he still has to present to Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Mayor Pedro Acharon of General Santos, is aimed at protecting the tuna export industry and the livelihood of close to 2,000 small-scale fish traders at the Davao Fishport.

"We will allow a limited volume of non-exportable tuna to be released from Davao Fishport to the local market. This is being discussed and it seems that the formula is acceptable," Montemayor said.

He said in addressing the issue, the DA is looking at protecting the livelihood of close to 2,000 people in Davao City who are dependent on the small-scale trading and processing of tuna.

By allowing such limited volume, Montemayor said it is also legalizing the industry in the city. Hence, fish traders would have to pay customs duties to the Bureau of Customs.

Earlier, Duterte and Acharon also raised this concern to Montemayor.

The Fisheries Aquatic Resource Management Council in Davao City has endorsed the petition to the national level to allow Davao fish traders to sell non-exportable tuna in the wet markets by amending Administrative Order 195.

Administrative Order 195 mandates that all tuna dumped in the Davao City Fishport will be brought to General Santos City.

But Montemayor said amendment to AO 195 would no longer be necessary because the National Fisheries and Aquatic Management Council can allow limited importation if there is an urgent need or for food security reasons.

But he said it should not also hurt the local fishing industry.

"It is still being discussed but the formula seems to be acceptable to various parties. The 1.2 or 1.3 formula would not hurt the local industry," Montemayor added.

Montemayor said a win-win solution would be released by the DA to end the tuna rift between fish traders of General Santos and Davao City. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Western sections of Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. The rest of Luzon will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 33°**	Lo 25°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	**HI 26°**	Lo 16°
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	**HI 36°**	Lo 26°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	**HI 34°**	Lo 25°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 33°**	Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 31°**	Lo 23°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 33°**	Lo 26°
Calapan	Widespread Rains	**HI 33°**	Lo 24°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Widespread Rains	**HI 33°**	Lo 24°
Roxas	Widespread Rains	**HI 32°**	Lo 26°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 31°**	Lo 26°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 34°**	Lo 26°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 28°**	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 31°**	Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	**HI 32°**	Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/07/03/02

PNP concerned with 85 villages in W. Visayas

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The Police Regional Office in Western Visayas (PRO-6) has classified 85 barangays in the region as "areas of concern" in the synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections on July 15.

Capiz has the most number of barangays tagged as areas of concern with 42 followed by Negros Occidental, 27; Iloilo, 8; Antique, 7, and Aklan, 1. The region has 4,048 barangays.

The figures were reached after the joint evaluation conference of the Philippine National Police, the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Commission on Elections where the peace and order situation in the region was assessed as part of the preparations for the elections.

A barangay is considered an area of concern if it has a history of election-related violence; presence of rebels; and the existence of intense political rivalry.

Senior Supt. Efren Quintos, acting Capiz provincial director, said the barangays considered as "areas of concern" are mostly in Tapaz, Dumarao, Cuartero, and Dumalag towns.

Two New People's Army units, the Central Front and Eastern Front committees, operate in Capiz, which is considered by the Army's Task Force Panay to have a significant presence of rebels compared to other areas in Panay.

The PNP and the AFP will monitor these areas closely. These barangays could even be placed under direct control of the Comelec if the situation worsened.

Chief Supt. Rolando Garcia, PRO-6 director, said the list could changed as the elections draw near.

He noted that while the barangay elections are supposed to be non-partisan, traditional and big political parties are expected to influence the elections because the outcome will affect the local elections in 2004.

Garcia also noted that because barangay elections involved candidates in the local level, the elections were more "emotional," which could result to violence.

Garcia said both the AFP and the PNP were looking into reports that communist rebels would try to influence the elections.

"We will not allow any group to influence the elections and we will ensure the people's freedom to elect their officials," Garcia said.

RESIDENTS of Sibuco town in Zamboanga del Norte take a break from their daily chores. DENNIS SABANGAN

24 Mindanao solons slam DENR secretary

A GROUP of lawmakers and political leaders from Mindanao condemned Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Heherson Alvarez for using public relations stunts and an outright smear campaign against those opposing his confirmation at the Commission on Appointments (CA).

In a statement, 24 Mindanao solons reiterated their opposition to Alvarez's CA confirmation because of the unabated pollution of the water systems in the Caraga Region from illegal gold mining at Mt. Diwalwal in Compostela Valley.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay said a series of paid ads by illegal gold miners has bolstered his belief that Alvarez was indeed unfit to be DENR secretary.

"With his clumsy PR efforts, Mr. Alvarez has erased my last doubt that he is in cahoots with the illegal miners who are extracting a huge amount of gold everyday without the proper permits or without any benefit at all going to the government," said Pichay.

He added that he was disturbed by a report in the INQUIRER on Sunday that Alvarez's wife Cecile had threatened "to do worse than a Linda Montayre" if her husband was removed as DENR secretary. "I hope this is not true, for if it is, then it gives credence to the rumors that there is a conjugal dictatorship holding sway at the DENR."

Meanwhile, political leaders from the Caraga Region joined the solons in defending Pichay, who as member of the House Committee on Natural Resources had spoken out against the illegal mining activities in Mt. Diwalwal.

Reps. Manuel Zamora (Compostela Valley), Leovegildo Banaag, (Agusan del Norte), Celso Lobregat (Zamboanga City), and Rodolfo Plaza (Agusan del Sur) lashed out at Alvarez for resorting to a well-funded PR campaign in what they called a desperate attempt to reverse the public sentiment against him as DENR secretary.

Alvarez flip-flops on Caraga wood companies' suspension

BUTUAN CITY— Environment Sec. Heherson Alvarez has lifted his order, which temporarily closed the operations of at least six of the seven wood companies linked to illegal logging activities here.

In his one-page order dated June 29, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER yesterday, Alvarez told the Department of Environment and Natural Resources office in Caraga to allow the resumption of the wood firms' operation so as "not to cause any economic dislocation as a result of the operation stoppage."

In the same order, Alvarez, however, said that the temporary ban on the operations of Ventura Plywood remains because of its failure to comply with various requirements.

But the INQUIRER learned that Ventura Plywood had ceased operation last year, long before Alvarez ordered it padlocked along with the Agusan Plywood Corp., Richmond Plywood, Emco Plywood Corp., Philippine Softwood Products Inc., Industrial Timber Industries Corp. and United Wood Industries.

A report from the DENR central office investigative unit has recommended the closure of the wood processing companies for allegedly buying illegally cut logs.

On June 24, Alvarez issued an order, directing all seven firms to stop their operations pending the result of another investigation.

But five days later, he lifted the order.

Aside from allowing the resumption of the wood firms' operations, Alvarez also ordered Benjamin Tumaliuan, DENR Caraga director, to conduct a follow up investigation at the regional level.

Tumaliuan told the INQUIRER that an investigation might no longer be needed but that they would only validate existing information.

"There were no violations based on initial assessment. But we will continue with our validation," he said.

Tumaliuan said the validation would no longer include Ventura Plywood since the company had stopped operations.

Romeo Ang, manager of the Agusan Plywood Corp. said he was optimistic that his firm would pass the ongoing investigation "because the allegations can't be proven."

As this developed the Butuan-Agusan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BACCI) said Alvarez made the right decision in recalling his order.

Abelardo Garcia, BACCI secretary general, said the move would help revive the wood industry and spur employment opportunities in the region.

"It's good, we welcome the development because it helps a lot in the local economy in terms of job generation and taxes," Garcia told the INQUIRER.

He said hundreds of workers were laid off after Alvarez temporarily shut down the operation of the wood firms, but they could now go back to their work.

The Butuan-based wood firms are among the major producers of plywood and blackboard in the domestic and export markets. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Laguna priest's killer gets life term

SINILOAN, Laguna—The presiding judge of the regional trial court here on Monday sentenced to life imprisonment the confessed killer of Mabitac parish priest Arsenio Plata Jr. amid some doubts from the slain priest's relatives.

RTC Presiding Judge Lorenzo Bueser made the promulgation after two postponements, on June 26 and June 28, inside the RTC courtroom in the presence of the accused, his counsel and the slain priest's relatives, friends and fellow clergymen.

Sentenced was Alvin de la Peña, 25, of Sitio Silab, Barangay Longos, Kalayaan, Laguna.

Fr. Teodoro Real, episcopal vicar in the area, who was present during the conviction, quoted the mother of the slain priest Gavina Plata as saying that she was now relieved that justice for her son had finally been served.

But the elder Plata, 68, a widow, told the INQUIRER earlier that she still suspected that the accused did not do the crime alone. She did not elaborate.

Cecille Plata, 32, younger sister of the priest-victim went hysterical and cursed when authorities brought in De la Peña at the prosecutor's office in the presence of Plata's relatives the other Wednesday when the first schedule of the promulgation was set.

The crying Plata said between sobs: "He (De la Peña) must die. He killed my brother. He has no right to live."

Assistant provincial prosecutor Marianito Sasondoncillo earlier told the INQUIRER that De la Peña had confessed to the killing of the priest on Nov. 15 last year inside the church premises.

"Having confessed to the crime was a mitigating factor on the part of the accused, hence, the verdict was lower than death penalty," Sasondoncillo said.

"It was difficult to prove that somebody was behind the killing of Plata, aside from De la Peña. The accused has a track record of robbing churches and there was no evidence to prove that there was premeditation on the part of De la Peña when he stabbed the victim," the prosecutor explained.

De la Peña was tried for robbery with homicide for the crime and the possible punishment for such offense is either death penalty (through lethal injection), or *reclusion perpetua* (life imprisonment), the prosecutor said. *Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

SSS ups ID output

LEGAZPI CITY—The Social Security System office here has increased the production of SSS membership IDs through the data capture machine from 70 to 120 members per day, SSS OIC-administrative officer Susan Malubag said. As a result, the office's limited personnel assigned to do the job have to start working at 7:30 a.m. with no noon break. As of the first quarter of this year, the SSS here has in its list 65,946 members. "We advised all members to secure their respective IDs as soon as possible as the system of data capture ID production facilitates transaction and eliminates anomalies," Malubag said. ***Melanie Valenciano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Philanthropist dies

DAET, Camarines Norte—Multibillionaire-philanthropist Jesus Typoco Sr., father of Camarines Norte Gov. Jesus Typoco Jr. and elder brother of the late Tan Yu, died of kidney failure due to cancer at 5:20 p.m., Saturday, at the St. Luke's Hospital in Quezon City. He and his only brother, Tan Yu, founded the P2-billion KTTI Foundation, which has funded thousands of scholars and community projects nationwide. Typoco is survived by his wife Bieng Onglo Lee, only son Jesus Jr., only daughter Linda, daughter-in-law Thelmy and son-in-law Peter Chai.

Bing Abaño, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

4 teen suspects nabbed

GUIGUINTO, Bulacan—Police arrested on Sunday four teenagers suspected of raping and killing a medical technology student in Barangay Cutcut here on Saturday. The four were Ryan Gamboa, 19; Jason Viola, 19; an 18-year-old resident of Balagtas town; and a 15-year-old tricycle driver who is said to be the leader of the group. Police said the suspects waylaid Mary Joyce Siozon, 17, a medical technology student of Fatima College in Valenzuela City, on Saturday night while she was on her way home. Siozon's body was found near a fishpond in Barangay Bulihan in Plaridel on Sunday.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Quezon cops go on-line

LUCENA CITY—The Quezon police force is now on-line, thus, setting the record as the first provincial police office in the country that has availed of the use of the latest information technology. First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo was the guest of honor in the launch of the Quezon police's "Full Computerization Program" held at the Philippine National Police Quezon Clubhouse on Saturday. At least 50 personal computer systems supported by a fax-modem and a dual mode digital camera each were distributed to several local police stations.

Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Hospital suffering

SORSOGON CITY—The provincial hospital here is suffering from dwindling medical supplies and bugging old equipment, according to Dr. Antonio Lopez, provincial health officer-in-charge. Lopez said the P1.1 million fund allocated quarterly to them is not enough to meet the huge demand for medicines, supplies and hospital maintenance. To offset the lack of supply, Lopez said they have solicited help from other sources. This month, the Rotary Club of California will donate some $150,000 worth of equipment to the Sorsogon Provincial Hospital, aside from solicited items to be included in the package, Lopez said. They are also expecting P5 million worth of equipment from Sen. Loren Legarda-Leviste.

Emir Gamis, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

No Bayan Muna-NPA meet

NAGA CITY—The Bayan Muna party-list group has denied allegation that its members held a meeting with New People's Army rebels in Camarines Sur on June 8, a statement of an officer here said yesterday. Jariz Vida, Bayan Muna secretary general in Camarines Sur, denied the INQUIRER report on June 15 that quoted Maj. Jose Broso. Vida said their members in the province have been harassed, illegally arrested and detained, and their houses strafed by soldiers. He alleged that there is an ongoing "Intensified demolition plan against Bayan Muna." Vida added that Bayan Muna-Camarines Sur will not endorse any candidate for the barangay elections. ***Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

Barangays watched

NAGA CITY—Senior Supt. Roberto Rongavilla revealed that at least 50 barangays in Camarines Sur are being monitored in connection with the joint Sangguniang Barangay-Sangguniang Kabataan elections. He said should the situation in these barangays deteriorate at the start of the elections, the police office here will declare them as "hot spots." The Commission on Elections said the police and the Army are tasked with determining election hot spots. It said the Comelec has asked the police or the Army to deploy more armed units in the hot spots.

Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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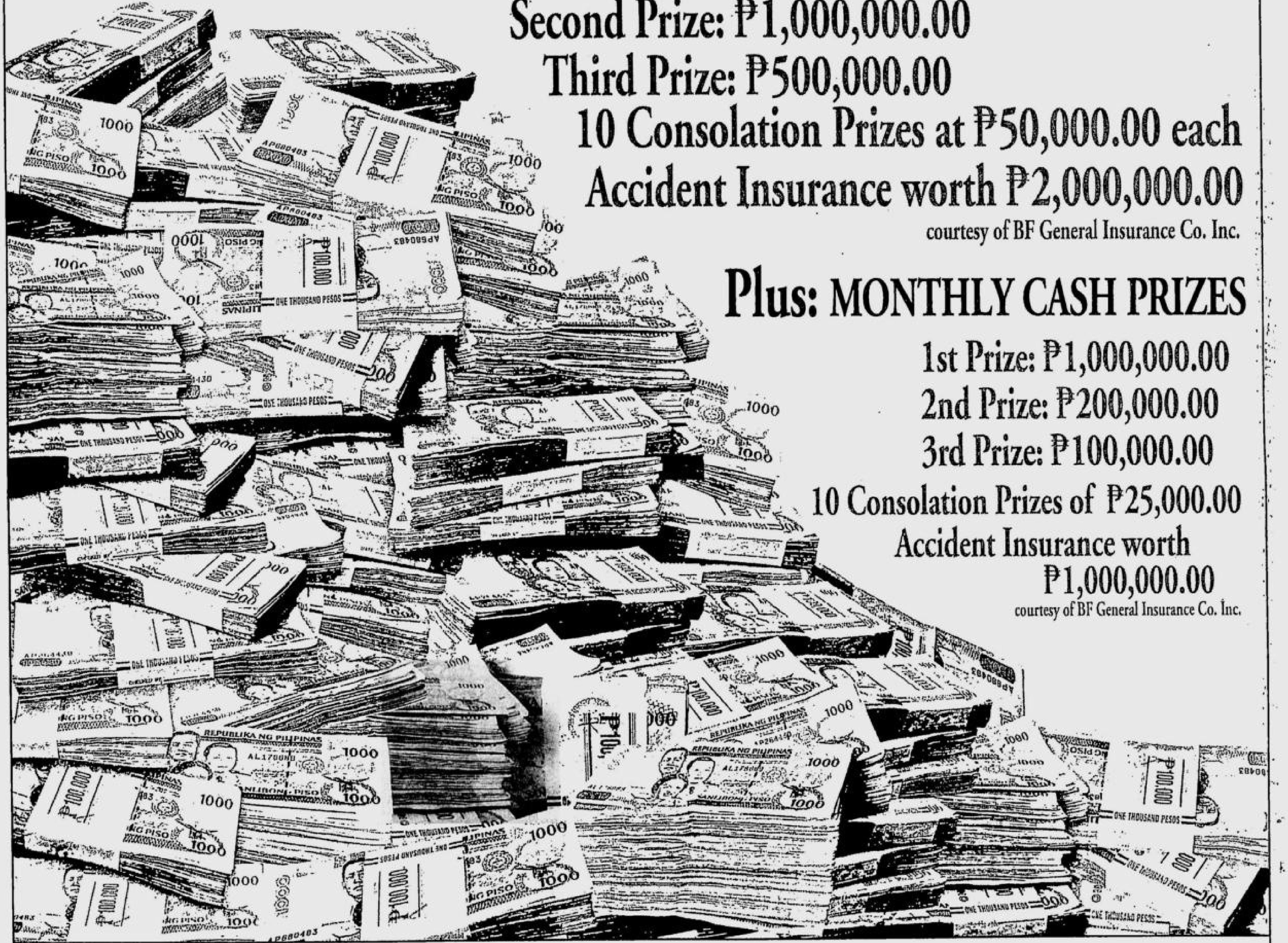

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INQUIRER*Northern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** @ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Indifference, distrust rule in C. Luzon's 'jueteng' base

By Tonette Orejas
City of San Fernando

COTEJOS (number charts) are laid out and aficionados go about deciphering the next two digits to gamble on. Bets are wagered openly, even at the offices of the provincial capitol of Pampanga. Collectors strut around, displaying their *papelitos* (strips of paper where bets are recorded) and pens and announcing the winning number pair.

"30-31," one barked within the hearing distance of a policeman manning a busy route at the poblacion. The 10:30 p.m. *bola* (draw) last Saturday went without any hitch in a house within a short ride north of the city hall of San Fernando.

Routinely normal, obviously untouched, still raking in the money.

That's how jueteng operations have been since Wednesday in Pampanga, the home province of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The crunch but stopped at the level of the seven Philippine National Police officials ordered sacked by Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. last Wednesday, observes Ody Fabian, a member of the regional monitoring task force on illegal gambling.

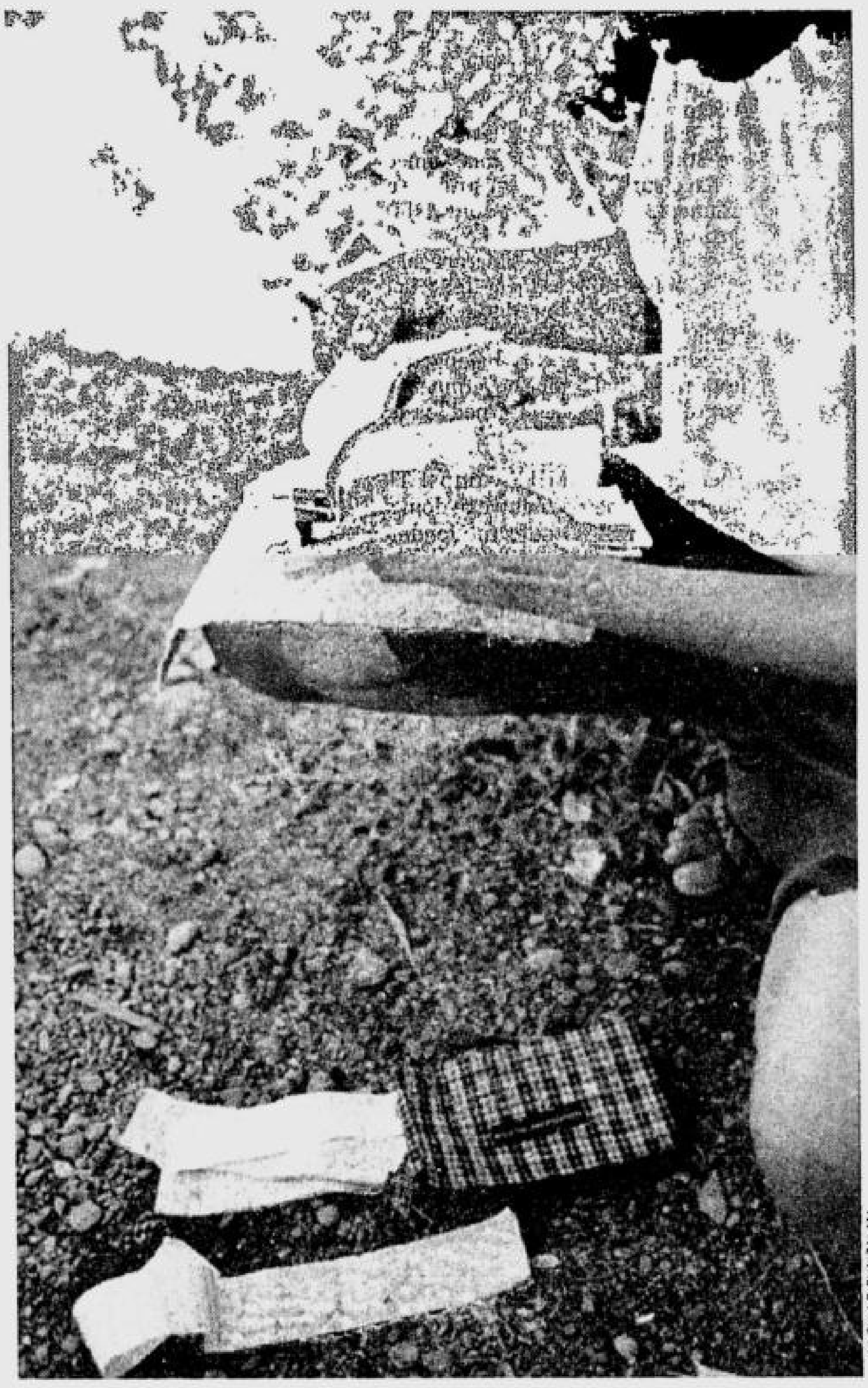
"It's all talk. There are no actions on the ground," Fabian, also editor of The Voice, Central Luzon's oldest weekly newspaper, notes of government's renewed drive to eradicate the illegal numbers game.

'Bogus crackdown'

Except for what appears to be a "bogus crackdown," Fabian airs exasperation over not finding new to report or monitor about jueteng.

Much have been said on how the illicit game is operated and rigged, and the betting public filched.

Discussions have also centered on why it has survived the crackdowns by four administrations since the martial law days and how control by jueteng lords has changed hands. How jueteng has corrupted law enforcers, public officials and the media has also been written about.



JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

A JUETENG collector tallies the day's bets before the draw. The illegal numbers game is rampant in San Simon, Pampanga where this photo was taken.

"The public knew too well what's really happening," he adds.

The glut of official information on jueteng's dark side and, on the other hand, the lack of will by government to really put a stop to it has bred a more fearful reality.

"*Wala nang tiwala ang tao* (People no longer trust)," Fabian says, citing The Voice's survey on Friday in Angeles City and Mabalacat town.

Of 105 respondents in the two areas, 45 agreed with the order of Lina to relieve the police officials, including Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, Central Luzon police director.

At least 21 did not agree. The remaining 39 had no opinion.

"Many have perceived the government's crackdown as mere propaganda," says Fabian.

Because past efforts hardly made a dent or even saw its resumption or its more vigorous operation, the campaign on jueteng but diminished the credibility of government, he says.

According to Fabian, the Macapagal administration, which vowed to carry out a moral recovery program, is suffering the same fate, which Lina seemed to be addressing.

Jueteng flourishes under Ms Macapagal despite her benefiting from the juetengate scandal that led to the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada.

Fabian laments that the indifference and the distrust bred by the failure of the government's campaign will make it more difficult to convince the civilian populace to support efforts in stamping out the racket.

In not issuing strong statements against jueteng or in not taking actions against it, the Catholic Church in Pampanga has been perceived as complacent if not the beneficiary of jueteng charities.

'Pinugo' is key to sustainable woodcarving

By Padmapani Perez
Contributor

FAMED across the world for their artistry, the woodcarvers of Ifugao now face a dilemma that is also global in character: a dwindling supply of material for their craft. However, the Ifugaos have always had in their possession a solution to this problem.

In the village of Hapao in Hungduan town, community members of the Ifugao Global Forest Movement organized the first Pinugo and Livelihood Development Forum to remember and revive a traditional woodlot system, which could save the craft of woodcarving as well as the renowned Ifugao rice terraces.

The *pinugo* is a clan and/or community forest, a woodlot. In the Banaue area, it is also known as the *muyong*. For the people of Hungduan, the *pinugo* is much more than a stand of trees on a hilltop.

According to Panyo Pait, an elder of Hapao, clan and community members of the past marked their land and territories by planting trees. Rules were created for the judicious use of the *pinugo*.

Only community members were allowed to take wood from their respective clan's *pinugo*. Whenever wood was cut, trees were planted. This tradition has since vanished.

Threatened

Pait said the time has come to start planting replacements for all the trees lost in the past, especially if members wanted their grandchildren to benefit from having trees in the *pinugo* and, as a natural result, abundant water to irrigate their rice terraces.

Reynaldo Lopez Nauyac of the Ifugao Global Forest Movement (IGFM) said for them, "the *pinugo* has been the main source of water for the rice terraces and the main source of raw materials for the woodcarving industry."

"If pinugo watersheds disappear, so will the rice terraces . . . and woodcarving," Nauyac said.

The Hapao *pinugo* has been threatened across time by unselective logging, forest fires and commercialization.

THE WORLD-FAMOUS rice terraces of Banaue, Ifugao.

EV ESPIRITU

By Nauyac's analysis, the *pinugo* became endangered after World War II. American soldiers who stayed behind after the war played a major role in raising the demand for Ifugao woodcarvings for export, especially in Hapao.

Speedy denudation of the forests followed in the wake of this demand. While it was previously the custom to select larger, mature trees for cutting, it became common for people to cut even the small trees. This then affected the succession of growth in the forest.

At this point, no one adhered to the tradition of planting trees in the *pinugo* to replace those cut down. Many endemic tree species became endangered.

Nauyac lived in Baguio City and the village of Asin in Tuba, Benguet, for many years as a woodcarver and community leader.

Decades ago, the need for reforestation was already becoming apparent, he said. However, it was difficult to convince people to plant trees such as acacia and *adaan bakil* or the Philippine mahogany (also known as ironwood or *kamagong*).

Instead, people preferred to plant fruit trees from which they could harvest within five years or so. Waiting more than 10 years to harvest wood for lumber or carving was not considered worthwhile.

The consequences of neglecting to replant trees where so many were cut down are now felt by the woodcarvers of Ifugao in more ways than one.

Not only has the denudation of the *pinugo* affected the woodcarving business, it has also led to a noticeable decrease in the water running through the ancient and sophisticated irrigation system of their rice terraces. Ifugaos have had to migrate farther and farther away from their homeland to make a living.

The urgency of the *pinugo*'s return is more than just a matter of saving a carefully managed ecosystem for the sustenance of a people. More than this, it is also about an enduring love and respect for a way of life.

"We cannot dance the way our people dance if we do not know how to preserve our land," said Lourdes Bitog of the IGFM as she summed up the intimate link between culture and the environment in Hapao.

Without the *pinugo*, what is the last stand of the woodcarvers and the rice terraces? "They will die," Nauyac predicted grimly. "But if we plant and plant our trees . . . , if we take this to heart, then we will have an oversupply of trees in 50 years!"

Padmapani Perez is a Baguio-based environmental anthropologist..She focuses on political ecology, and the relationship between the well-being of communities and the state of their environment, particularly among indigenous peoples in the Philippines.

TOM Cruise with Villa Angela owner Dr. Purificacion Verzosa in this 1988 photo. PHOTO REPRODUCTION BY LEONCIO BALBIN JR.

'Cruise dined here'

By Frank Cimatu
Vigan City

INSIDE Villa Angela, a 19th-century Vigan house turned into a charming bed-and-breakfast inn, is a framed photograph of Hollywood actor Tom Cruise and the matriarch of the house.

Tom Cruise, who is celebrating his birthday today, was in Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte in 1988 to film the movie "Born on the Fourth of July" that eventually won for him the Golden Globe best actor award.

Marjo Villanueva, the manager of Villa Angela located along Quirino Avenue, said they will not put a sign proclaiming that "Tom Cruise Slept Here" because he didn't. But she said the sign, "Tom Cruise Dined Here," would be more appropriate.

DAYTOY TI AMIANAN

In fact, Cruise, his then wife Mimi Rogers, fellow actor Willem Dafoe, director Oliver Stone and 10 others had dinner at the elegant dining room of Villa Angela.

Villanueva said she wasn't particularly thrilled about hosting Cruise in May 1988 because she had spent her time in Switzerland and didn't know who Cruise was.

After being briefed by her more starstruck relatives, Villanueva agreed to host Cruise's group as the actor signed autographs for her friends and relatives.

She said Cruise was genial and charming throughout the night.

In the movie, Cruise played Ron Kovik, a Marine soldier who lost both legs during the Vietnam War and ended up becoming the leading activist for peace and fellow Vietnam veterans.

But during his return to the United States, he fell into a deep funk and decided to go to Mexico.

"Mexico" in the movie was filmed in Ilocos Sur and Ilocos Norte. The sand dunes of San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte, was the "Mexican beach" where Cruise and Dafoe, both paraplegics in the movie, had that terrible catfight.

But the Mexican cantina, where the fight and Cruise's sexual initiation were filmed, was actually Villanueva's house on Crisologo Avenue in Vigan.

When asked about his impressions on filming in Ilocos 12 years later, Cruise said he missed the beautiful sunset and the warm people, and would want to film in the Philippines again.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon said Cruise is indeed set to make a war movie in the country again.

Gordon said Cruise was being eyed for the filming of "Ghost Soldiers," which will be based on Hampton Sides' critically acclaimed book of the same title about how the elite US Army's 6th Ranger Battalion rescued 500 American and British prisoners of war in Janaury 1945 in Cabanatuan City.

"From the first page alone, you would know that the book was made for film," Gordon said. "Tom Cruise had fond memories of Ilocos where 'Born on the Fourth of July' was partly made. He wanted to come back."

GMA says Camp Abubakar to become an Army base

From page A1

projects that would benefit even the relatives of MILF fighters.

The President said the fallen MILF camp, which straddles the municipalities of Barera, Buldon and Matanog, should cease to be called Camp Abubakar and should be referred to by the name of its sitio, barangay and municipality.

Last day

"Maybe this should be the last day that we call this place Camp Abubakar," the President said.

The military captured Camp Abubakar on July 9, 2000 after then President Joseph Estrada declared an all-out war with the MILF.

At least 210 government soldiers were killed in skirmishes and major battles with the MILF from January to July 2000. In the assault on the MILF stronghold, eight soldiers were killed and 37 others were wounded.

In the battle, military aircraft—OV-10 Bronco bombers, MG-520 attack helicopters and F-5 jets—dropped more than 80 500- and 750-pound bombs on Camp Abubakar.

The once-impenetrable camp was a self-contained community that included farms, homes, schools, markets, a sawmill, training areas, a weapons manufacturing facility and mosques.

Estrada himself raised the Philippine flag in the camp and joined soldiers in a celebration with beer, roasted pig and chicken, drawing howls of protest from Muslims.

No turnover

Ms Macapagal dispelled reports that her administration would turn over the camp to the MILF.

"Some newspapers said I went here to return the camp to the MILF. That's not true," said Ms Macapagal.

"I came here to show the whole country and the world—especially those who say that we would return the camp to the rebels—that Camp Abubakar is entirely in the hands of the Republic of the Philippines," Ms Macapagal said.

She chose to give her speech "at the heart of Camp Abubakar," the so-called Bedis Academy where MILF guerrillas used to train. A few meters away stood the house of MILF chair Hashim Salamat, who remains in hiding despite the ongoing peace talks.

"Now you see who lives here; it's the soldiers of the Republic," Ms Macapagal said, adding that civilian residents can go on living inside the camp.

The Macapagal administration was accused of giving back camps to the MILF after it signed two agreements with the Moro secessionist group on May 6 and 7.

Under the first agreement, the military and police will join forces with the MILF in going after suspected criminals hiding in so-called MILF areas.

Under the second agreement, the MILF will form an implementing body that will supervise rehabilitation projects in former MILF camps.

"They said we're returning the MILF camps. That's not true. What we're doing is development under the leadership of the Republic of the Philippines," the President said.

Public Works Secretary Simeon Datumanong said the transfer of the 603rd Army Brigade headquarters from Barangay Pigcalagan in Sultan Kudarat town to Matanog would start after buildings and other structures shall have been constructed.

"But for the meantime, some of the troops can now move into the former MILF camp," Datumanong said.

Good mood

Heavy downpour delayed Ms Macapagal's visit to Camp Abubakar, but she was still in a good mood.

"Three things made me happy today. The Korean was released, ARMM gets OIC (Organization of the Islamic Conference) recognition and Camp Abubakar is now a military base. I have a good day today despite the rain," Ms Macapagal said in Cotabato City after motoring to the former rebel base in Barira, Maguindanao.

The President was referring to the release of Korean national Jae Keon-yoon.

From the Cotabato airport where she deplaned from Davao City, the President was supposed to fly by helicopter to Barangay Tugaig in Barira, Maguindanao, where Camp Abubakar is, to distribute agricultural equipment to farmers. But zero visibility forced her to travel by car.

"So I can see the development being undertaken by the government," Ms Macapagal said.

On her way to Barira, the President said she witnessed how depressed the town and Matanog, which are both in northern Maguindanao, were.

"There are many rivers to cross but no bridges," she remarked. But she said "it was an exciting trip."

US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone was with the President in the hour-and-a-half trip.

Ms Macapagal quoted Ricciardone as saying: "I thank you Ms President for inviting me here because I really enjoyed the adventure." ***(See related story)***

The President turned over to North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol checks amounting to P51 million, and the same amount to Sultan Kudarat Gov. Pax Mangudadatu for agricultural projects.

Misuari

While talking peace with the MILF, Ms Macapagal scored Nur Misuari, former Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) chair.

The President said the OIC was no longer recognizing Misuari's faction of the MNLF as the representative of Muslim Filipinos.

At the 29th OIC conference in Khartoum, Sudan on June 27, the OIC recognized instead the ARMM under Gov. Parouk Hussin.

Hussin also chairs the 15-member MNLF Central Committee that ousted Misuari last year.

Misuari is detained at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa Laguna, while undergoing trial for rebellion.

"The OIC recognizes as the representative of Muslim Filipinos not Misuari, not the MILF, but the ARMM which is part of the Republic of the Philippines," the President said.

The MNLF enjoyed observer status in all OIC meetings. The government and the MILF have long been requesting the OIC to be given such status. ***With a report from Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

US backs RP peace talks with MILF

CAMP ABUBAKAR—Washington yesterday threw its support behind the Philippine government in negotiating peace with the largest Muslim separatist group in Mindanao.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone, accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo on a visit to this former base of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), said the US government would help provide civilian retraining for some 300 former MILF rebels who have surrendered to the government.

"I'm very pleased to confirm to you Madam President, as your government reaches an agreement with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, my government is prepared to stand with yours in supporting that agreement," Ricciardone told Ms Macapagal during the trip.

"It is a privilege for us to be a witness to that and we are supporting it," he said.

The sprawling 10,000-hectare camp was the MILF's main headquarters until the military overran it in July 2000, forcing the rebel army to flee to smaller encampments.

The 12,500-strong MILF last year signed a ceasefire with the Philippine government amid peace talks aimed at ending its 24-year struggle to create an independent Islamic state in Mindanao.

Ms Macapagal said families of former MILF rebels would be allowed to return here and establish homes, but stressed the territory belonged to the Philippine government and would not be returned to the MILF. ***AFP***

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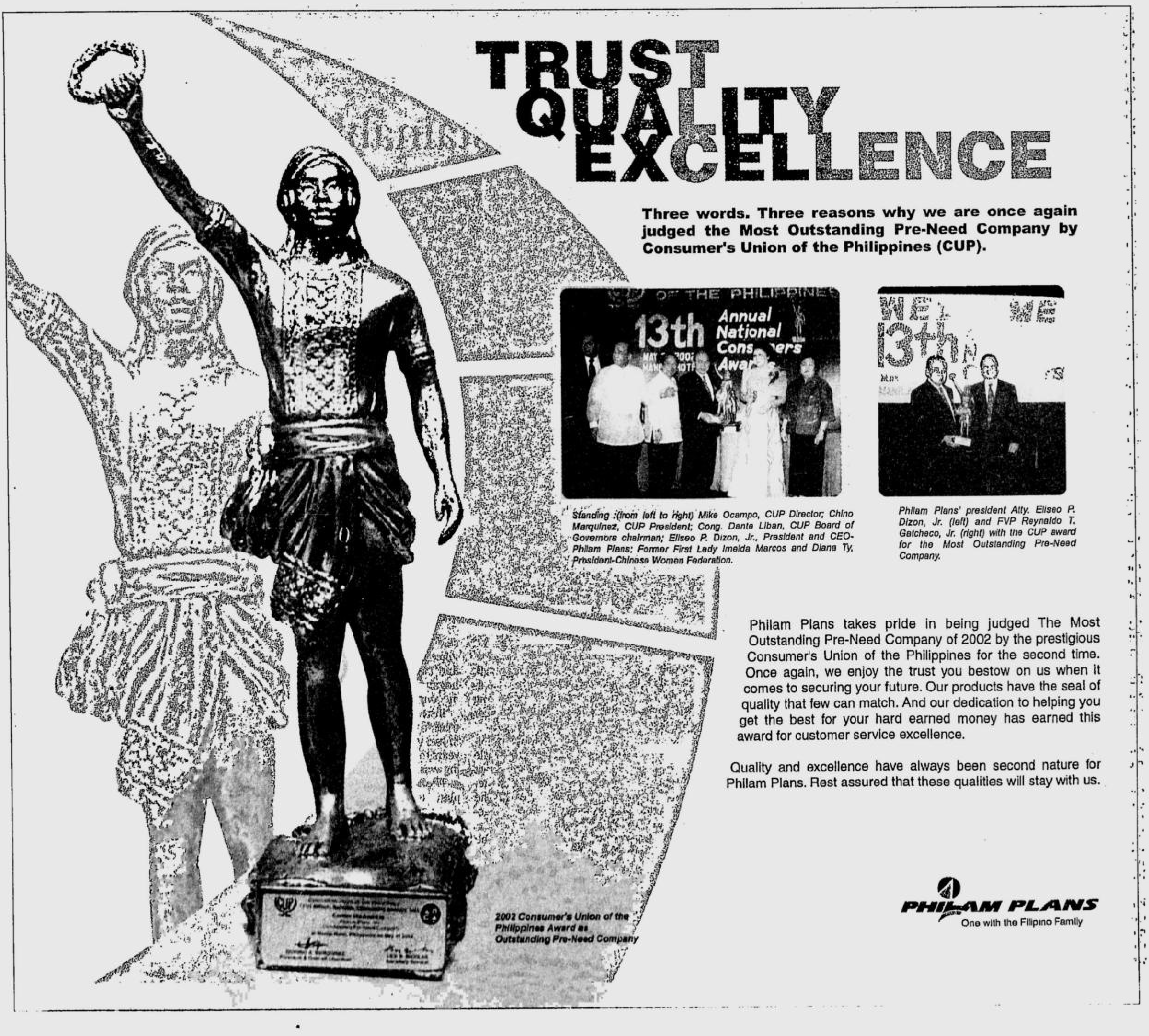

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Philam Plans' president Atty. Eliseo P. Dizon, Jr. (left) and FVP Reynaldo T. Gatcheco, Jr. (right) with the CUP award for the Most Outstanding Pre-Need Company.

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Envoy looms as new DFA chief

From page A1

Cabinet post," an INQUIRER source said.

The source noted that former President Ferdinand Marcos served as acting defense secretary while deposed President Joseph Estrada acted as interim interior secretary.

"The President after all was the chief architect of the country's foreign policy so why not."

The source said that another option was for President Macapagal to name a senior DFA official as officer in charge until she has designated her nominee. The source declined to cite other options being studied by the Palace.

Courting Ople

Last week, a trusted aide of President Macapagal left for the United States reportedly to talk with Ople, 75, to offer him the DFA portfolio.

There has been no official word whether such an offer was actually made and if it was accepted amid denials by opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara in Manila that Ople was refusing the "bribe."

Ople's acceptance would tip the balance in the deadlocked Senate which is at present evenly divided between 12 senators each for the administration and opposition blocs.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel also said that Ople had rejected the Cabinet post even before Guingona confirmed his resignation to the INQUIRER.

"I don't think Ka Blas will renounce his legislative seat and disappoint more than eight million constituents who elected him to the position," Pimentel said.

"But more than this, he is not the kind of politician who will forsake his principles and the opposition," he added. "He will he allow himself to be used as a pawn in any political power game."

Pimentel claimed that Ople had known the DFA post was being given him to reduce the number of opposition senators and allow the Macapagal administration to regain its Senate majority.

Last fling

But Palace aides maintain that Ople can be persuaded to accept what may be called his "last fling."

To soften the blow on the opposition, Ople can invoke the national interest in accepting the President's offer, they said.

Ople's appointment to the DFA post has been much talked about in administration circles.

Ople is known for having steered the Senate committee for foreign relations since his election as senator in 1992.

Ople also served as member of the Constitutional Convention that drafted the 1987 Constitution during President Cory Aquino's tenure.

The labor minister during the Marcos regime from 1967 to 1986, Ople was one of the architects of the massive export of Filipino labor, starting with the Middle East.

"Let's face it. He is a foreign policy expert and the DFA can cap his career," a source said.

Pro-US Romulo

Romulo, 63, was foreign secretary during the Ramos administration from 1992 to 1995 until he was removed because of public outrage over the execution of Filipino housemaid Flor Contemplacion in Singapore.

"His confirmation hearing at the Commission on Appointments would surely center on his handling of the Flor Contemplacion case. The department cannot afford to go through that controversy over again," said one foreign service officer (FSO).

DFA officials believe that Romulo was a good DFA secretary. He could have been the greatest, they said, "if only his temperament allowed him to be friendly with the foreign service officers on the ground."

Regarded as "staunchly pro-US," Romulo is currently adviser to President Macapagal on international competitiveness.

Acknowledged to be someone "who has the ear of the President" when it comes to foreign policy, Romulo heads what has been referred to as the "Sikatuna office" that allegedly serves as a parallel DFA.

A source said: "He has been there and he was effective except when it came to the Contemplacion case which was not his fault in the first place."

Career diplomats

Severino, 66, is a career diplomat and is currently the secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

"He's one of the more substantive diplomats with a broad knowledge of the foreign service. He has international stature having dealt with the likes of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan and the foreign ministers of Southeast Asia," a career diplomat told the INQUIRER.

But some FSOs aired their reservations about his administrative capabilities as "Severino believes that administration is not a function of a DFA secretary. As a leader, he is very qualified but he would need a good undersecretary for administration."

Severino started his career in the foreign service in the '60's under then Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus, under whom he also served as special assistant when the latter was a senator.

Severino, a former ambassador to Malaysia, was one of Romulo's undersecretaries.

"He is a seasoned foreign affairs guy. He is a consummate diplomat," a source said.

Baja, 65, is a lawyer-diplomat and a career officer in the foreign service.

Now DFA undersecretary for policy, Baja served as ambassador to Brazil and was appointed assistant secretary for Asia and the Pacific in 1993.

"He has a lot of experience as a senior DFA undersecretary," a source said. "He has represented the foreign affairs secretary in a number of times in recognition of his capabilities."

Ex-senators

Tatad, 63, is no newcomer to a Cabinet position. He was the public information czar to the Marcos regime from 1969 to 1980.

Starting out as a journalist, Tatad has adopted foreign policy as one of his major fields of study. He served as vice chair of the Senate committee for foreign relations from 1992 to 1995.

"He has made that transition to foreign affairs and has embraced a wide knowledge such that he could is also qualified to become foreign affairs secretary," a source told the INQUIRER.

Tatad was one of the 11 senators who voted against the opening of the controversial second bank envelope during the aborted impeachment trial of then President Joseph Estrada.

In an interview over GMA 7 on Monday night, Tatad said that he was not inclined to accept any offer of the DFA portfolio because this might be construed as an act of betrayal by his colleagues in the opposition.

Maceda, 67, is more known as the "ultimate politician" and a "survivor" of fast changing political climes.

Maceda was executive secretary to Marcos, turned opposition later, got a Cabinet position during the Aquino administration, was elected senator in 1987 and has maintained his currency in succeeding years.

Maceda was ambassador to the United States during the short-lived Estrada administration.

"He has an extensive background in government. He could also be a good choice," the source said.

Too nice

There is also talk of Raul Rabe as a potential candidate. Rabe, 62, was ambassador to the United States during the Ramos administration. A career diplomat, he was also former consul general in Honolulu, Hawaii from 1984 to 1986.

"His only weakness is that he's too nice all around," a diplomat at the DFA commented.

Last week, the ever-busy rumor mill also hummed with speculations that Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon may also be considered for the DFA post largely because of his pro-US orientation.

But sources in the DFA said that officers and the rank and file might find his temperament unsuitable to the DFA.

"The DFA would be too slow for his thirst for action," an officer said.

When sought for comment on the candidates for DFA secretary, Jose Ma. Rufino, presidential adviser for political affairs, sought to place the appointment "in a larger perspective."

Rufino said: "The DFA is a post that should not be limited to the ruling party or the administration."

"The DFA relates to the country as a whole," Rufino added.

"I'm sure there must be a list," Rufino said. "Let us give the President all the necessary latitude." ***With a report by Cynthia Balana***

No, thanks, but if you insist...

By Rocky Nazareno

YES, if ...

Opposition Sen. Blas Ople said he was not "desperate for a job" since he has two more years as senator, but would consider accepting the post of foreign secretary "if the President is sincere in her invitation."

Ople also said he would consider the offer if "the matter is extricated from the political and critical issues in the Senate."

"I shall be prepared to examine a presidential offer on its merits, guided solely by public interest," Ople said.

Ople's comment will be published in his column at the Manila Bulletin, a copy of which was furnished the INQUIRER by the office of opposition Sen. Edgardo Angara.

But in his letter to Angara from Los Angeles yesterday, Ople assured the opposition leader that "my vote in any Senate reorganization is not and will not be compromised."

Ople sent Angara an advance copy of his column and authorized him to release it to the Senate media.

In his column, Ople confirmed that he was "sounded off on the possibility of serving the President as secretary of foreign affairs" even before June 3 when Sen. John Osmeña bolted the majority.

"I said then that this matter could not be discussed until a vacancy occurs in the Office of Secretary of Foreign Affairs," Ople said.

He was again offered the post after the Senate reorganization.

"I informed the President's emissaries that I could not accept a job offer with political strings attached or if it was tied up with the reorganization of the Senate," Ople said.

"Central to this argument is the principle of an independent Senate under the Constitution," he added.

Ople underscored that "trading one's vote for a valuable consideration by any name is immoral and might even smack of political corruption."

Ople pointed out that the differences between President Macapagal and Guingona "had more to do with problems of personal chemistry with the Vice President saying that he had more rapport with the President's father, the late President Diosdado Macapagal."

"It seems he feels more constrained under the daughter's more forthright management style. But it goes without saying that a Cabinet minister must adjust to the President's management style and not the other way around," Ople said.

Ople recalled how he and Ms Macapagal, then a senator, sponsored the passage of the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade Uruguay Round creating the World Trade Organization.

He also said Ms Macapagal supported him when he sponsored the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA).

"'Then Senator Arroyo saw that as chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations I conducted the committee's affairs in the spirit of true bipartisan cooperation. The result was the unanimous approval by the Senate of the two landmark treaties, the WTO and VFA," Ople said.

This time it's for real: Tito quits on July 15

From page A1

made his way out of his office.

In Amsterdam, the man accused of orchestrating his ouster, presidential adviser Roberto Romulo, denied any role in the matter. "I had nothing to do with the Guingona affair," Romulo said in a faxed statement.

Guingona, 74, refused to make any extended remarks, but he did say that contrary to earlier reports, there was no offer from the President for him to become presidential adviser on foreign affairs. He also said he would go on a long vacation after his resignation takes effect.

"I take everything in stride," he said just before he stepped inside the elevator.

"The Vice President had a heart-to-heart talk with the President in Davao City last (Monday) night," the joint statement signed by both President Macapagal-Arroyo and Guingona read. "The Vice President tendered his resignation as secretary of foreign affairs, which the President accepted with regrets, effective July 15, 2002."

The resignation stemmed from "an honest difference of opinion regarding policy," the two leaders said, but the statement did not specify the policy dispute or name Guingona's replacement.

"Since the President is the chief architect of foreign policy, the Vice President yields. The Vice President continues to hold the President in high esteem and is committed to good governance," the statement read.

Sikatuna denial

Romulo, a former foreign secretary and current chair of the influential Makati Business Club, denied he caused the rift between Macapagal and Guingona.

"I had nothing to do with the Guingona affair. Let's put that embarrassing incident to rest," Romulo said in a text message to the INQUIRER.

He also faxed a similarly worded statement from Amsterdam, where he attended the annual board meeting of a South African technology company.

Romulo said the Guingona incident "ruins our image abroad" and should now be laid to rest. "I am not interested in the DFA job even if offered," he said.

Romulo sounded hurt by renewed charges that his alleged meddling as head of the so-called Sikatuna group—named after his Makati City office address—had alienated Guingona.

"In my old age, I don't need this grief," Romulo said.

Part of his statement read: "Once again, allow me to state that I am not interested in being the secretary of foreign affairs. I have not been offered the job and even if offered I will not accept. I resent being victimized by headline-seeking politicians."

The other day, Deputy Speaker for the Visayas Raul Gonzalez said Romulo had been feeding the President with intrigues against Guingona.

But Romulo said he got on well with the Vice President. "My relationship with the Vice President continues to be cordial even as we differ on foreign policy issues," his statement read.

Yesterday, Gonzalez stood by his remarks, noting that Romulo's admission of foreign policy differences with Guingona revealed much.

"That is the thing," Gonzalez said. "If they differ on foreign policy, he can undercut Guingona especially if he has the ears of Malacañang."

Gonzalez said Romulo should limit his duties to his appointment—which has to do with international trade—and not foreign policy matters.

"For example, if he meddles in the appointment of ambassadors and entertains foreign ambassadors, it would appear that he is the parallel DFA and he can undercut the prestige and prerogative of the Vice President," Gonzalez said.

No offer

On Thursday, in the controversial letter in which the President accepted Guingona's "resignation," Ms Macapagal offered the Vice President another post—that of presidential adviser on foreign affairs.

But yesterday's joint statement made no mention of another assignment for Guingona. The Vice President, who delivered a privilege speech in 2000 that eventually led to the ouster of President Joseph Estrada, is president of the administration party Lakas-NUCD, while Macapagal is co-chair together with House Speaker Jose de Venecia.

In their joint statement, Ms Macapagal said she would continue to support three special projects that Guingona undertook in his capacity as secretary of foreign affairs: the Overseas Filipino Investment Bond; the housing program for overseas workers; and the rehabilitation of an integrated National Steel plant in Mindanao.

The statement did not explain how the DFA came to take responsibility for National Steel.

"(The resignation) was inevitable after what happened the past few days," Presidential Adviser on Political Affairs Joey Rufino said yesterday. He said Lakas members had "more or less accepted" that Guingona would be leaving the Cabinet.

"I told them we should be ready to face this . . . We all serve at the pleasure of the President," he said.

Acting Press Secretary Silvestre Afable Jr., who absorbed all the flak for last week's resignation booboo, did not take media questions yesterday.

He has declined to face Palace reporters since Friday.

Still cordial

Guingona said his relationship with the President remained cordial despite their differences.

"It's all right, it's cordial," the Vice President said. He declined to issue any more statements.

"We just agreed (to stick to the joint statement). If I make a statement, it will again add fuel to the fire. There'll be misinterpretations. I hope you understand," he said.

Asked if he believed that Romulo's Sikatuna group was behind his exit, Guingona said that he had no sufficient evidence. He didn't deny receiving information about the group's role, however.

"I've no sufficient evidence," e had said in an earlier chance interview just before he closeted himself for almost the whole afternoon inside his office.

The office of the secretary was teeming with ranking DFA officials yesterday afternoon, but a source said they were there for routine meetings that involved the DFA desk officers.

Aside from Guingona, others who may have to go are DFA Undersecretaries Merlin Magallona and Sixto Roxas.

Magallona, the undersecretary for migrant workers affairs, and Roxas, the undersecretary for international relations, were Guingona's personal appointees. ***With reports from AFP, Reuters, AP***

Joint Statement of the President and the Vice President

July 2, 2002

The Vice President had a heart-to-heart talk with the President in Davao City last night. The Vice President tendered his resignation as Secretary of Foreign Affairs, which the President accepted with regrets, effective July 15, 2002.

The resignation stemmed from an honest difference of opinion concerning policy. Since the President is the chief architect of foreign policy, the Vice President yields. The Vice President continues to hold the President in high esteem, and is committed to good governance.

The Vice President expressed his appreciation to the President for the opportunity to serve as Secretary of Foreign Affairs. The President thanked the Vice President for his patriotism and devotion to duty in implementing the nation's foreign policy.

The President shall continue to support the following programs initiated by the Vice President in his capacity as Secretary of Foreign Affairs:

1. The Overseas Filipino Investment Bond project undertaken in coordination with the Department of Finance, envisioned to generate savings for overseas Filipinos and empower them with skills training to enhance their occupations or professions;
2. The Housing Program, coordinated with HUDCC, intended to provide shelter to the OFWs and their families; and
3. The rehabilitation and establishment of an integrated National Steel in Mindanao.

Teofisto Guingona
(signed)

Gloria M. Arroyo
(signed)

Gloria glows in Davao City 'After Dark'

From page A1

seven-hour sleep to spend a late evening with Duterte, some members of her Cabinet and regular clients of the bar.

She sang the famous Cebuano song "Usahay" (Sometimes) with Duterte, who also sang two songs for her, his favorite: "MacArthur Park" and "Balod sa Kapalaran" (Wave of Fate).

Duterte, who at first refused to tell reporters of his night out with the President, said he was just showing Ms Macapagal how safe it was to go around at night in Davao City.

"I thought she was just pulling my leg when she wanted me to bring her to a place (watering hole) where I usually bring my visitors. So I took her to a bar. She had hot tea. I had iced tea," the mayor told reporters.

Duterte described the President as in a very jovial mood. Ms Macapagal stayed out for about an hour and 30 minutes and went back to the hotel at about 1:35 a.m. She was to leave for Cotabato at 8:30 a.m.

Duterte, who was former President Joseph Estrada's mayoralty bet in the city and the PDP-Laban's local standard bearer in the local polls, said there was no political discussion.

Before going to "After Dark," the President had a "durian party" with reporters, members of the Cabinet, local officials and political leaders at the Marco Polo hotel poolside.

At the durian party, the President would look for Duterte to sit beside her, stirring speculations that she was wooing the mayor to be with her in the 2004 elections.

'RP's Punisher'

It would have been hard for Duterte to resist the President. At the joint Regional Peace and Order Council (RPOC) and Regional Development Council (RDC) meeting on Monday, the President showed an article in Time Magazine, featuring Duterte as "RP's Punisher" in connection with his peace and order drive in the city.

Ms Macapagal granted Duterte's request for P25 million to purchase a CT Scan for the government-owned Davao Medical Center.

She supported the mayor's sentiment on the American treasure hunter Michael Meiring who was "shanghaied" by two agents of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

The President said she would bring up to the US ambassador the case of Meiring, who is facing charges of reckless imprudence with damage to properties, for the explosion in a local hotel a month ago.

Duterte was also named "arbiter" for the Diwalwal (small-scale mining in Monkayo, Compostela Valley) problem, which the President said she wanted a win-win resolution just before nightfall yesterday.

Korean treasure hunter released

From page A1

a beard but appeared to be in good health, told reporters.

In Sulu, negotiations were still under way for the release of three Indonesians who were taken by an armed group amid military preparations for a strike against the abductors.

Jae, along with hotelier Carlos Belonio and six other companions were seized by eight heavily armed men belonging to the Abu Sufia kidnap gang along the Sarangani-Sultan Kudarat boundary on Feb. 6.

The victims were on their way to General Santos City.

Jae's companions were released later that day, except for Belonio who was freed on March 26 after his family reportedly paid a P1.5-million ransom.

The Abu Sufia gang turned over Jae to incoming Philippine National Police chief, Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane, and Mayor Labualas Mamansual in Barangay Lumitan here at around 8:10 a.m.

Ebdane said no ransom was paid for Jae's freedom.

But he said he and Mamansual were working out some economic and political solutions so the bandits could get a chance to lead a new life.

Frankie Tañedo, a councilor of Maitum, Sarangani and one of those involved in the negotiations, admitted that Mamansual gave at least 50 sacks of rice to the Abu Sufia gang before the South Korean was released.

Stockholm syndrome

Jae said his kidnappers, led by a certain Didu Binago, had treated him well. "Abu Sufia gang members are good people," he said.

Military officials told newsmen that the victim had apparently been afflicted with Stockholm syndrome, a condition in which a hostage develops an emotional attachment to his or her captors due to stress, dependence and the need to cooperate for survival.

According to the military, the Abu Sufia is composed of members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and the Moro National Liberation Front. Its former leader, Chongko Abdul Rakman, alias Commander Tropical, was ousted during a power struggle.

Jae said the group had more than 100 heavily armed members.

While he had good words for the gang, he said he was upset at several people who negotiated for his release.

The South Korean said his abductors had long wanted to release him but some negotiators told the kidnappers that they could get as much as P15 million in exchange for his freedom.

"They told me that any ransom amount would do. Only the negotiators and mediators were bad. Because of them, my release was delayed," he said.

But Jae would not identify the "bad" negotiators, who, he said numbered around 20.

Sulu trip

Indonesian Consul General Bambang Pangestoe went to Sulu yesterday to observe the development of negotiations for the freedom of the three Indonesians being held by bandits there.

Pangestoe flew to Zamboanga City early morning and took the boat to Sulu as the military announced that it was poised to operate against the kidnappers.

Johannes Manginsela, vice consul of the Indonesian Consulate in Davao City, said Pangestoe met with Sulu Gov. Yusop Jikiri, "just to have an update on the latest progress of the negotiations and the efforts of the Philippine government to free our nationals."

Manginsela stressed that the consul general's trip was not an indication that Indonesia wanted a direct hand in freeing the hostages. "We respect the effort of prominent persons in Jolo who have been talking with the armed group," he said.

He said the negotiators were fully aware that money should not be made leverage in talking with the captors.

Manginsela also said his government trusted the government's approach in securing the release of the hostages.

Maj. Gen. Ernesto Carolina, Southern Command chief, said the military operations had been launched against the bandit group in Luuk, Sulu, after negotiations for the safe release of the hostages failed on Sunday.

Military option

"The political leaders were talking with the lawless elements. I do not know what happened why they did not agree. We waited but nothing happened. We are now applying the military option," Carolina said.

He said additional forces from the Army's 104th Infantry Brigade and the 3rd Marine Brigade had been deployed.

"This is a very different case. But we cannot give an assurance (they will be safe). But we will not be deliberate in our actions," Carolina told reporters on Monday.

The Indonesians were abducted last month as their tugboat, which was bringing in coal to Cebu, took an "illegal route" to save on fuel, Carolina said. He faulted the victims for "inviting" an attack by bandits.

He said the Indonesians were pocketing money by converting at least 4,000 gallons of diesel to cash.

After he was handed over by his kidnappers, Jae was brought to Mamansual's house in Barangay Malisbong, Palembang. He asked the mayor if he could take a shower.

He emerged from the bathroom wearing a fresh pair of new clothes and sat down with reporters.

Jae said he would still go back to Mindanao to continue his business. Aside from being a treasure hunter, he said he was into metal scraps.

As he was taking his first meal of rice, *afritadang kambing* and *papaitan* (goat dishes), Jae recounted his ordeal.

"Life up there (in the mountain hideout of his abductors) was hard. We ate rice with salt as viand, sometimes banana," he said in a mix of English and Filipino.

After eating, he gamely posed with Ebdane, Mamansual and other officials for a photo session. ***Reports from Aquiles Z. Zonio, Edwin O. Fernandez, Allan A. Nawal, Ayan C. Mellejor, Anthony S. Allada, Dennis Jay Santos and Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

DENR strikes out . . .

From page A1

during the Commonwealth period that discriminated against women in the processing of homestead applications.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez signed on June 24 Department Administrative Order No. 2002-13 amending DENR regulations on alienable and disposable public lands.

The new order repeals Paragraph 8 of the Philippine Commonwealth's Lands Administrative Order (LAO) No. 7-1, which prohibits married women from applying for homestead patents except for certain cases.

The 1936 regulation requires the written consent of a woman's husband before she can apply for the purchase or lease of public lands.

The husband's consent is not required if the woman is living separately from her husband and is not dependent upon him for support. The requirement also is not necessary if the husband is insane or physically incapacitated.

Only after the married woman had secured a written consent that the DENR can approve the purchase or lease.

"After 66 years, women, regardless of civil status, shall now enjoy equal rights as men in the filing, acceptance, processing of the approval of public land applications," Alvarez said.

Alvarez said the DENR was seeking to remove gender bias in all its rules, regulations and procedures.

The DAO was first endorsed by Mylene Alvano, executive director of the Land Administration and Management Project (LAMP), which is under the DENR.

In a memorandum to Gregorio Cabantac, undersecretary for legal, land and international affairs, Albano said the gender bias was one of LAMP's major findings in two barangays where titles were issued in the form of homestead patents.

LAMP is a World Bank project aimed at improving land rights and eliminating fake land tiles in the country.

In pushing for the repeal of Paragraph 8 in LAO No. 7-1, Albano cited the provisions for gender equality in the Constitution, Republic Act No. 7192 or the Women in Development and Nation Building Act, and the DENR Administrative Order (DAO) No. 98-15 or the Revised Guidelines on the Implementation of Gender and Development Activities in the DENR.

"There is no basis in law or regulation for the continued enforcement of Paragraph 8 of LAO No. 7-1," Albano said.

Cabantac transmitted the proposed DAO to Alvarez, saying it was in accordance with law and equity. The Director of Lands also interposed no objections to the proposed amendment to LAO No. 7-1.

In a memorandum to Alvarez, Cabantac said the proposed DAO, if approved, would be a significant accomplishment of the DENR.

Alvarez said DAO 2002-13 would enhance the implementation of RA 7192 and DAO 98-15.

"In as much as we are fast tracking the land distribution program of the Macapagal administration, we are also trying to make it efficient by ensuring equal rights regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, and religion," Alvarez said.

Ann Christine Rojo, national chair of the Gender and Development Focal Point System, hailed DAO 2002-13 as a "victory for all women."

"We hope this will be replicated at all levels of government and society," Rojo said.

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WIMBLEDON

‘Sis Slam III’ on course; Henman, Hewitt advance

WIMBLEDON, England—Serena Williams rushed to grab her racket bag and was nearly trampled by the grounds crew pulling a tarp across Centre Court as rain finally fell at Wimbledon.

It was the only time either Slammin' Sister was pushed around Monday.

"I almost got ran over, but I survived," Serena said. "I made it to another day."

After a 1-hour, 50-minute rain delay in the second set, the No. 2-seeded Williams wrapped up a 6-3, 6-3 victory over Chanda Rubin to reach the quarterfinals. Older sister Venus, ranked No. 1 and the two-time defending champion, pounded Lisa Raymond, 6-1, 6-2.

They are now two victories each from the third all-Williams Grand Slam final in 10 months.

"It's very important not to get overconfident, because everyone wants to beat a Williams right now," Serena said. "We're the top players."

On the fortnight's first wet day, with 35 mph (56 kph) winds and temperatures dropping into the teens C (50s F), Tim Henman barely kept up his quest to give Britain its first Wimbledon men's title in 66 years. He needed smelling salts, loud crowd support and all of his opponent's 17 double faults to advance despite an upset stomach.

Down a break in both the fourth and fifth sets, Henman battled past a faltering Michel Kratochvil, 7-6 (5), 6-7 (2), 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

"I can't quite figure out how I won. I was feeling pretty tired," the fourth-seeded Henman said. "I'm just so happy to still be alive."

His potential semifinal opponent, top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt, was superb yet again. The US Open champion made it to the quarters at the All England Club for the first time by beating Mikhail Youzhny, 6-3, 6-3, 7-5, for a fourth straight-set victory.

Three of 16 scheduled singles matches didn't finish. Jennifer Capriati split two sets with 38th-ranked Eleni Daniilidou, and Greg Rusedski–the other British hope – was headed to a fifth set against Xavier Malisse before play was called because of darkness.

The men's quarters set so far: Hewitt vs No. 18 Sjeng Schalken, Henman vs Andre Sa of Brazil, and No. 22 Nicolas Lapentti of Ecuador vs No. 28 David Nalbandian of Argentina.

The women's pairings: Venus Williams vs Russian qualifier Elena Likhovtseva, Serena Williams vs No. 11 Daniela Hantuchova, and Monica Seles vs 2001 runner-up Justine Henin.

No. 9 Amelie Mauresmo stopped the run of 134th-ranked qualifier Laura Granville of Chicago, 6-2, 6-2, and will meet the Capriati-Daniilidou winner.

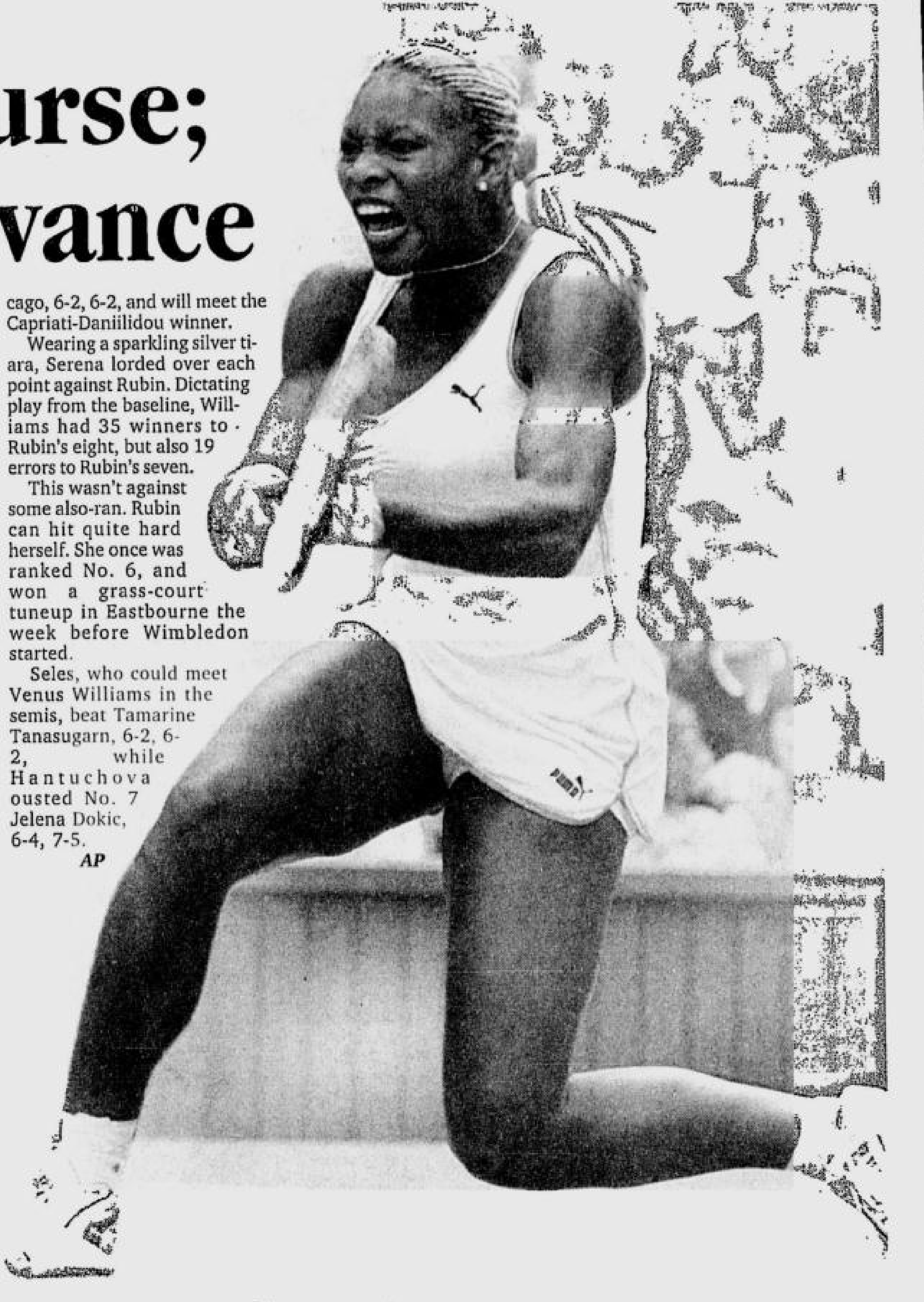
Wearing a sparkling silver tiara, Serena lorded over each point against Rubin. Dictating play from the baseline, Williams had 35 winners to Rubin's eight, but also 19 errors to Rubin's seven.

This wasn't against some also-ran. Rubin can hit quite hard herself. She once was ranked No. 6, and won a grass-court tuneup in Eastbourne the week before Wimbledon started.

Seles, who could meet Venus Williams in the semis, beat Tamarine Tanasugarn, 6-2, 6-2, while Hantuchova ousted No. 7 Jelena Dokic, 6-4, 7-5.

AP

HENMAN whoops it up after turning back Kratochvil, 7-6, 6-7, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, to move into the quarterfinals for the sixth time in his career. AFP



SERENA Williams makes a backhand return against Rubin. AP

NL EAST

Braves repulse Expos, extend lead

ATLANTA—Matt Franco hit a grand slam in the fifth inning and Atlanta's bullpen pitched six scoreless innings Monday to lead the Braves past the Montreal Expos, 7-5.

Atlanta won for the 11th time in 12 games to push its lead in the National League East to 9 1/2 games over the Expos, who lost their third straight game.

Kerry Ligtenberg (2-3) pitched two scoreless innings for the win. He replaced Tom Glavine, who left the game in the third with a blister on his index finger.

Relievers Darren Holmes, Tim Spooneybarger and Chris Hammond held Montreal in check until the ninth, when John Smoltz came in to get his 28th save in 31 chances.

Phillies 6, Mets 3

In Philadelphia, Brandon Duckworth pitched 7 1-3 strong innings and Travis Lee homered and drove in four runs as Philadelphia defeated New York

Duckworth (5-5) was masterful at the start, retiring the side in order in five of the first six innings. Tony Tarasco and pinch-hitter Jay Payton hit solo homers in the Mets eighth inning, chasing Duckworth and making it 6-3.

Mesa closed out the game for his 21st save in 25 chances.

Duckworth allowed three runs on five hits. He struck out nine and didn't walk a batter.

Brewers 2, Pirates 0

In Pittsburgh, Alex Sanchez broke up Kip Wells' no-hit bid with one out in the eighth inning, and Jamey Wright pitched a three-hitter as Milwaukee shut out Pittsburgh.

Wright (2-6) held the Pirates to three singles as he won for the first time since beating San Diego on May 24. It was his second shutout and first this season. He struck out four and walked four.

Wells (9-5) struck out Wright for the first out of the eighth before Sanchez lined an 0-1 pitch over third baseman Aramis Ramirez for a single. He allowed the two hits, three walks and hit a batter. He struck out five.

Jeffrey Hammonds ended an 0-for-20 slump with a run-scoring double.

Cardinals 7, Padres 3

In St. Louis, Woody Williams hit his second career home run and won for the fourth time in five starts as St. Louis beat San Diego.

Jim Edmonds, Miguel Cairo and Albert Pujols also homered off rookie Oliver Perez, 20, the youngest player in the major leagues. Williams and Cairo hit consecutive homers in the third.

Williams (6-3) gave up three runs on five hits in eight innings with seven strikeouts and two walks. He homered to right off Perez's first pitch of the third, his first homer since connecting off Kirk Rueter July 20, 2000, at San Francisco.

Williams is batting .250 (5-for-20) for the year with three RBIs.

COMPLETE RESULTS

AMERICAN LEAGUE—Boston 4, Toronto 0; Seattle 7, Kansas City 0; Minnesota 5, Oakland 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE— Florida 11, Chicago Cubs 1; Milwaukee 2, Pittsburgh 0; Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Mets 3; Cincinnati 7, Houston 5; Atlanta 7, Montreal 5; St. Louis 7, San Diego 3; San Francisco 8, Colorado 6; Los Angeles 4, Arizona 0. *AP*

Chessfest fires off July 6

THE COUNTRY'S premier executive chess tournament, PEACE 2002, unveils a seven-leg event on July 6 at the spanking new Land Bank Plaza (near Malate Church) in Manila. Tournament starts at 1 p.m.

PEACE stands for Philippine Executive Active Chess Express, which has been organized since 1992 by the Active Chess Center of Asia Inc. (ACCA). Major supporters of the chessfest are Land Bank and Belgosa Media Systems Inc.

The event is open to all business executives and professionals. For more information about the tournament, call 892-8759.

Dennis San Juan, the defending champion in the elite Success section (formerly Harmony section), is expected to lead a total of 60 entries that include two more former title holders, lawyer Jose Ventura Aspiras and dentist Jenny Mayor.

Last year's winner in the Prosperity section (formerly Serenity section), Ryan Ruiz, has been elevated to the Success section.

CONTENDER

Caltex Havoline-Beefeater team captain Oscar Aguilar, father of multititled motocross champion Glenn, finished second in Rounds 7 and 8 to emerge top contender for the Class C crown in the SVI Challenge at the newly renovated Subic International Raceway.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1994, Otto Shoes beat Burger Machine, 95-81, to win the PBL Reinforced Conference championship at the Astrodome. Also today in 1989, Vince Lauron defeated Iggy Gavecilla, 4 and 3, to rule the 40th Philippine Amateur Golf Championship at Wack Wack.

Ramirez outshines Coseteng

SUBIC–Kookie Ramirez shattered Jody Coseteng's growing myth of invincibility on Sunday, winning the SVI-Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway here.

In halting Coseteng's seven-win streak, Ramirez also made up for his heartbreaking finish in the same race last month and jumped to second place overall in the 14-part series organized by Sports Values Inc. and sponsored by Petron.

His first win after eight rounds gave Ramirez 32 points based on the 10-6-4-3-2 scoring system used by the SVI.

Coseteng has 76 points.

"I'm very happy, There were some problems early in the race, but I'm glad that I was able to overcome them and prevail in the end," said Ramirez, the oldest of four sons of car racing legend Pocholo Ramirez.

Carlos Anton of Gulf Oil-MP Turbo struggled all day and slipped to third place with 31 points with only six rounds remaining.

Rounding out the top five in the 20-man Blaze super saloon category were Mike Aguilar of Castrol-Velocity Motors-Cebo Eyewear, fourth with 26 points; and 1999 overall champion Miguel Ramirez of Petron-SRA, fifth with 16 points.

A big disappointment was defending champion Ferdinand Ong, who failed to finish in both the seventh and eighth rounds.

Roy Luarca

MP Turbo drivers beat ’em

ACTOR Monching Gutierrez bucked engine problems and teamed up with John Sambo of Pampanga to steer the prolific MP Turbo Team to a pair of inspiring victories in the Subic Grand Prix Series over the weekend.

Gutierrez, Dickies' chief endorser, climbed from 12th place as he shrugged off engine troubles to ruled Round 8 of the SVI Challenge Cup Series.

Sambo followed suit when he topped the Novice Class of the Challenge Cup. Sambo, MP Turbo's rookie driver, also started at the back of the grid before driving his way aggressively to the finish line.

"I'm truly happy with this win," said Gutierrez after the race. "I had to drive flat out all the way to try and get first place. Luckily, our team made the right adjustments after the first race and gave me a very good car for the race. This is definitely one of the most memorable wins in my life."

The team is supported by the lubricants specialist Gulf Oil, world's biggest mobile services provider zed, Abante newspaper, EBC Brakes, Yehey.com, Racegear F1 store, Rainforest Mineral Water, CPM Mufflers and Accessories, ATI Diesel Engines, Francisco Motors Corp., Universal Motors Corp., BLTBCO and race shop MP Turbo.

Meanwhile, MP Turbo's TV show "Speed," which will start airing on Sunday, July 14 on ABC5, 11 p.m., will telecast all the exciting races.

Sambo, a former San Fernando councilor, was challenged by Peewee Mendiola but Sambo never gave up even after a late dive into the chicane that Mendiola overshot.

June Navarro

VARSITY TENNIS

The De La Salle University tennis squad with Rock and Roll team members Mandy Ochoa, Zoren Legaspi, Kier Legaspi and Miguel Vera pose with national players Johnny Arcilla, Joseph Victorino, Adelo Abadia and Junjun Toledo during the recent WRock Varsity Tennis Challenge 2002. Sponsors of the event were Eastpak Backpacks, Nassau Tennis Balls and Toby's Sports.

Balleber sparkles

EDGAR Balleber continued his winning run in the Milo/SRAP squash circuit recently by beating Arnel Begornia, 9-6, 10-9, 9-6, in the open division finals at the Makati Sports Club courts.

It was Balleber's third straight title in as many legs of the tourney organized by the Squash Rackets Association of the Philippines and sponsored by Milo and Philippine Sports Commission.

JR Garcia and Christian Balahadia emerged champions in Class B and C, respectively.

Garcia toppled Samuel Alas, 9-3, 9-6, 9-6, while Balahadia downed Allan Tantoco, 4-9, 10-8, 9-4, 7-9, 9-7.

Ricky Espinola, Hans Weerdon and Jeff Lorenzo finished third in the Open B and C classes, respectively.

Espinola turned back Rico Gomez, 8-10, 9-4, 4-9, 9-4, 9-4; Weerden whipped Ed Lee, 9-6, 9-6, 9-5; and Lorenzo ripped Emerson Lao, 9-5, 9-3, 9-6.

ASIAN TENPIN MEET

RP cops men's doubles title

THE PHILIPPINES' men's doubles team of Chester King and Biboy Rivera tamed the opposition to give the country its second straight gold medal in the 17th Asian Tenpin Bowling Championships in Hong Kong late Monday.

With a combined total of 2571 pinfalls after a 12-game series, the RP men's duo thrashed Malaysian Azidi Ameran and Ben Heng, and China's Jiang Yong and Zhang Ye at the SCAA Bowling Center.

Liza del Rosario ruled the women's singles Sunday for the country's first gold.

Ameran and Heng finished 12 pins short of the Filipinos' effort to settle for the silver medal, while Yong and Ye took home the bronze medal with 2500 pinfalls.

RIVERA (left) and King flash the thumbs up sign.

The Philippines thus claimed the overall leadership among 22 Asian countries seeing action in the event. Korea and United Arab Emirates are at joint second place with a gold medal each.

Winner of the singles gold medal during the 2001 Southeast Asian Games, Rivera burned the lanes with scores of 174, 220, 267, 214, 225 and 266 for a commanding total of 1366.

His aggregate of 2680 and 223 average also allowed him to be the No. 1 in the men's all events.

On the other hand, King, currently the world's No. 12 and also a Kuala Lumpur SEAG medalist, amassed 1205 on lines of 216, 206, 203, 150, 247 and 183.

CJ Suarez and RJ Bautista came in at seventh place with 2453, coming 47 pins short of snatching the bronze medals, but RP women's team of Del Rosario and Ces Yap could only finish fifth in the doubles event.

Del Rosario and Yap had a 12-game series total of 2453, which is 49 pins short of eventual gold medal winners Cha Mijung and Nam Bota of Korea.

Irene Yap and team captain Jojo Canare came in at 12th place with a combined total of 2332 pins. Still, Del Rosario is the current leader in the women's all events, while Yap is at third place.

Marc Anthony Reyes

Kahn bags Golden Ball

TOKYO—German goalkeeper Oliver Kahn was named the winner of the Golden Ball Award for his performance during soccer's World Cup, Adidas announced Tuesday.

Kahn garnered a total of 147 media votes to beat out Brazilian striker Ronaldo, who had 126. South Korean captain Hong Myung-bo finished third with 108 votes.

The award, sponsored by German sportswear manufacturer Adidas, is meant to recognize the outstanding individual player during the World Cup tournament.

Ballots were cast by journalists who were present at the World Cup third-place game between South Korea and Turkey played at Daegu, South Korea, and the final between Germany and Brazil at Yokohama, Japan. *AP*

KAHN (second from left) and the rest of the Germany national soccer team acknowledge the cheers of the crowd from the balcony of the town hall at the Roemer Place in Frankfurt on Monday. The Germans received a heroes' welcome despite losing to Brazil, 2-0, in the World Cup final in Yokohama, Japan on Sunday. AP

German goalie is 'tragic hero'

BERLIN—The loss to Brazil didn't dampen German pride in the unexpectedly good performance of their national team at the World Cup.

Almost every newspaper and television commentator weighed in with identical comments, ones echoed by fans—Germany played well in the 2-0 loss, overachieved throughout the Cup and there's absolutely no reason for shame.

"Boys, that was a super final—don't let your heads hang," was the Berlin daily B.Z.'s front page headline. "In 2006, we'll be world champions."

For many, goalie Oliver Kahn was both their hero and a tragic figure after his blunder led to the first of two goals for Ronaldo. *AP*

Go to wards: Perform well

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WHILE the rest of the national sports associations are rushing to snag berths to the Asian Games, athletics chief Go Teng Kok yesterday said he is willing to cut the numbers of his tracksters bound for the Asiad if they don't come up with strong showing in the Sri Lanka Asian Championships this August.

Go said he will bring all the 18 national track and field athletes to the Asian Track and Field Championships which will be the yardstick of Team Philippines' performance in the Asian Games slated Sept. 29 to Oct. 14.

"Right now I can't commit how many medals we are going to win in the Asian Games until I see them perform in Sri Lanka," said Go. "Those who don't give impressive performance will have to yield their slots to other deserving athletes."

Go added that though the 18 athletes have made it to the national pool seeing action in the Asiad based on the criteria set by the joint Task Force created by the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee, his association must still exercise its own monitoring on the athletes' performance.

"I only have five athletes who surely have what it takes to win medals in Busan," said Go. "But they all have to convince me they still fit and are worthy of Asiad slots. To see is to believe."

So far, only 151 athletes have made it to the pool as the Task Force enforced strict measures to make sure that the country will only send those who are deserving to be in Busan.

Long distance runners Eduardo Buenavista and John Lozada lead the national tracksters competing in the Sri Lanka trackfest starting Aug. 9. Also expected to perform well are long jump artists Lerma Bulauitan and Maristella Torres, and female marathoner Christabel Martes.

PBA refs a big letdown

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE REFEREES who officiated at last Sunday's PBA encounter between Batang Red Bull and Sta. Lucia Realty should be blamed for the near-fracas ensued at the playing court and outside of it for failing to control the situation.

As the arbiters of the game, it is their responsibility to the basketball fans and to the team owners to make sure that their calls are always firm, fair and honest so that the players and coaches will not lose their cool, most especially during a particularly close game like last Sunday's. The referees must always assert their authority over the players and coaches at all times because they exercise a direct and dominating influence over them. Unfortunately, this did not happen last Sunday because the referees did not assert their authority during the heated encounter, hence the players showed disrespect.

Just to illustrate: In full view of the public, Realtor Marlou Aquino repeatedly provoked Thunder import Tony Lang into losing his cool. But despite Aquino's repeated taunting and unsportsmanlike conduct the referees did not warn Marlou even once. Are they blind? PBA Commissioner June Bernardino must address this problem now because it is already threatening to erode the people's confidence in the league. In Marlou's case, the video tapes of last Sunday's game will show it all. (Red Bull won, 66-62, to post its third straight victory in the Commissioner's Cup where it is defending champion).

At present, many fans are boiling mad, their patience wearing thin over this unabated series of bum officiating in the PBA. For truly, some PBA refs need to shape up because they have become a big letdown, a pain in the neck. Jun B. should heed the call to improve officiating in the PBA and save the embattled league from failing apart.

* * *

BULLSEYE. Multititled shooting champion Tac Padilla, son of Olympic shooter Tom Ong, has scored another victory, this time against fake makers of Spring Cooking Oil, a leading brand manufactured by the family-owned Malabon Soap and Oil Industrial Corp. Acting on Padilla's complaint, police arrested a certain Antonio So, including his relatives and workers, during a raid recently of So's warehouse in Barrio Parada, Valenzuela City, for allegedly manufacturing fake Spring Cooking Oil. Members of the Criminal Investigation and Detective Group (CIDG) at Camp Crame conducted the raid after verifying that several boxes of cooking oil they bought from So's warehouse were found to be fake.

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Championships, Day #8 Highlights at 8 a.m. (r – 11 a.m.), Day 8 - Ladies Singles Quarterfinals at 12 noon (r), Day 9 - Men's Singles Quarter Finals at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Evian Masters, First Round at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BASEBALL: This Week in Baseball at 1:30 p.m. (r – 7 p.m.) on ESPN

BOWLING: CGU Asian Bowling Tour ((Philippines), Semifinals and Finals at 8 a.m. (r), Men's Highlights at 2 p.m. (r) on ESPN

SOCCER: Western Union World Football at 7:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN Goals! Goals Countdown at 8:30 p.m. (r) on ESPN

BOXING: Friday Night Fights at 10 p.m. on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

NCA hosts 4-cock derby today

IN a fitting post-World Slasher Cup, a blockbuster one-day, 4-cock derby will be hosted today by National Cockers Association council member Louie Cua at the Araneta Coliseum.

Featuring the very best fighting cocks of the country's leading cockerbreeders, the entries will be led by Big Dome owner Nene Araneta, Danding Cojuangco, the unsinkable James Chiongbian, Peping Cojuangco and longtime partner Esting Teopaco, three-time Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, twice Cocker of the Year Jun "Idol" Santiago, Pampanga's champion cockers Jun and Rudy Jingco, Meycauayan Mayor Eddie Alarilla, former PBA Commissioner Rudy Salud and Lito Orillaza, Vice Mayor Ernesto Mercado, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, 2002 Cocker of the Year Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa, Boy Lechon and Louie Cua;

Recent World Slasher champions Frank Berin and Nonoy Gonzales, Rep. Rudy Albano, Boy Primallon, Kano Daniel, Boy Jiao, Alex and Gerry Escalona, Mario Villamor of Phoenix fame, Henry Tan, Raymund Velayo, Pampanga's Jet Fernando, the Madlambayan brothers, John Capinpin, Jerry Ramos, Boyet Joson, Tony and Felix Trebol, Bob Cuenca, Boy Velez, Roichi Saito, Alan Tan, Mayor Jessie Viceo, Bong Pineda, Vic Yu, Pol Estrellado, Johnny Jalandoni, Boy Nilo Lizares, Iking and Jimmyton Araneta, Ram Lopez, Eddie and Bomboy Araneta, Manny Dalipe, Mayor Vic Amante, Peping Ricafort and Tos and Charlie Reyes.

9-Ball Challenge takes a break

THE BARCELONA Brandy P1M 9-Ball Challenge will take a break as organizers plan to come up with a better format and bigger prizes for upcoming billiards superstars.

"We're proud that the response has been tremendous the past three weeks and we're happy to know that there are a lot of promising billiards talents—especially from the Visayas and Mindanao regions—who worked their way up to get a chance to face our defending champion Lee Van Cortez in the final," said tournament director Jojie Acuna.

Resumption of the event will be announced later.

Corteza, gunning for his fourth straight title defense, beat Troy Danao of Bacolod City, 13-7, at Robinson's Galleria last week.

Philippine Airlines

JUNGOLF BACKER
Felix Cruz (extreme right), VP Marketing Support of Philippine Airlines, turns over to jungolfers JR Gonzales, Dottie Ardina and Jobim Carlos their tickets to Los Angeles as part of PAL's sponsorship for the country's delegation to the annual Junior World golf championships in San Diego. Looking on is Merwin Mediana, president of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines who will head the 23-player strong delegation set to leave this Sunday, July 7.

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JOEY@92.3 decks your calendars with ram-jamming live events, celebrations and movie dates this month!

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HIGH CRIMES
JULY 8 - 7:30 PM
GLORIETTA 4 CINEMA 6

Ashley Judd and Morgan Freeman team up to uncover the truth behind a cover-up and risk their own lives.

BACK IN BLACK

MIIB
JULY 15 - 7:30 PM
GREENHILLS THEATER 1 & 2

Agents K and J are black in black to take on more space scum in this high-flying sequel.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF M:I-2
NICOLAS CAGE
WINDTALKERS
JULY 23 - 7:30 PM
GLORIETTA 4
CINEMA 6

Nicolas Cage and Adam Beach take on the battlefields of World War 2 and vow to protect their code of honor.

Joey's Dance Nights
featuring
RAGE
@BLUE ONION
JULY 31 - EASTWOOD, CITY WALK

No time for winding down as the Rage Band kicks up the club scene at Eastwood City with good-time music and fun!

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OF
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A 4th of July party that will send the free world rockin'! Free-flowing guzzle n' grub, games, gifts, grooves by the Rage Band and a Grand Getaway for 2 to New York City USA!

JULY 4, 2002
THURSDAY - NBC TENT
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who your radio should be.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ● Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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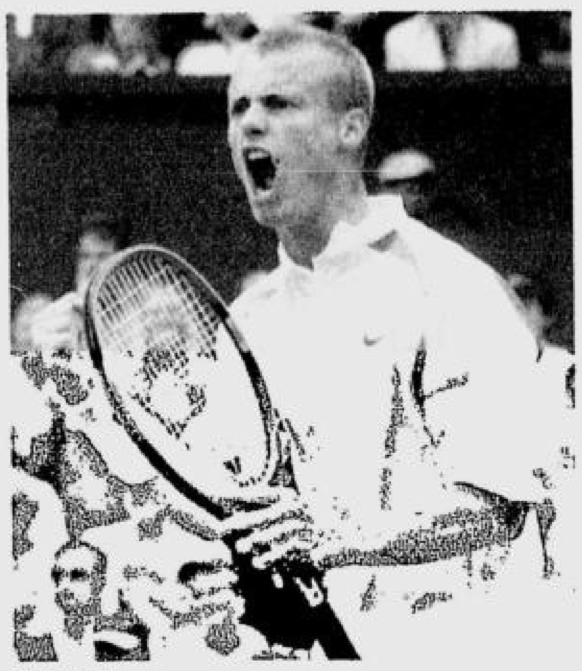

HEWITT

PBA CUP

Selecta-RP halts Pals in overtime

GAME TOMORROW
(Cuneta Astrodome)
7 p.m.—Ginebra vs Coca-Cola

By June Navarro

BAYNO

THE SELECTA-RP team stopped the rampaging Talk N Text Phone Pals on their tracks with a stirring 77-76 overtime victory last night in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Asi Taulava's putback underneath the basket with three ticks left in the extension period paved the way for the Nationals' second straight win in three outings.

It also inflicted a great deal of damage on the Phone Pals, who saw their three-game winning streak snap.

"We've improved a lot especially on the defensive end. Slowly but surely, we're developing as a team," said RP coach Jong Uichico.

"However, we still have to put more focus on end-game situations simply because we don't know whom to go to at crunchtime," he added.

Considered as one of the top defense-oriented squads, the Nationals shut down Gerald Honeycutt, the Phone Pals primary offensive threat, in the second half.

But the 6-foot-8 Honeycutt redeemed himself as he knocked in a game-tying triple in the final three seconds that sent the roller-coaster match into overtime.

Honeycutt's heroics somehow eased the pain the Phone Pals absorbed after American coach Bill Bayno got thrown out of the court for getting two technical fouls.

With Dondon Hontiveros, Olsen Racela and Danny Seigle raining triples on the floor, the Nationals kept the Phone Pals from a distance.

Elmer Lago led the attack for the Phone Pals, burying two straight triples and issuing a nifty pass to a streaking Victor Pablo that gave them the upper hand, 29-28.

Back-to-back treys by Hontiveros and Racela's 12-footer, however, had the Nationals pulling away, 36-29, from a tight defense-oriented contest.

Scores:

SELECTA-RP 77—Seigle 17, Taulava 12, Racela 0, Hontiveros 11, Espino 7, Ildefonso 5, Menk 5, Hatfield 4, Cariaso 4, Castillo 0.

TALK N TEXT 76—Johnson 18, Lago 14, Honeycutt 12, Pablo 11, Telan 11, Fran 5, Demape 3, Crisano 2, Camaso 0, Evans 0.

Quarters: 19-18; 36-29; 50-48; 77-76

Stags test Blazers mettle; Altas collide with Bombers

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
11:30 a.m.—San Beda vs UPHR (jrs)
2 p.m.—San Beda vs UPHR (srs)
4 p.m.—San Sebastian vs CSB (srs)
6 p.m.—San Sebastian vs CSB (jrs)

LEAGUE giants San Sebastian College and College of St. Benilde test each other's ferocity today in the NCAA basketball varsity wars at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Downing their respective foes in runaway fashion during last week's opener, the defending champion Stags and the Blazers clash at 4 p.m. in what could be a preview of the Finals.

The Stags and the Blazers, who won the NCAA crown during its 2000 edition, are the top favorites this year.

For starters, the Stags whipped the University of Perpetual Help-Rizal Altas, 74-65, while the Blazers scorched the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers, 82-67, during the opening of the league's 78th season on Saturday.

The San Beda Red Lions, who got waylaid by the Letran Knights, 69-64, and the Altas meet in the other seniors match at 2 p.m. Both games will be aired live on Studio 23.

Veteran playmaker and last year's Finals MVP Christian Coronel, Paul Reguerra, Roy Falcasantos and 6-foot-7 Pep Moore will spearhead the attack for the Stags.

They will be sized up by the Blazers, who have kept the services of power forward Alex Magpayo, Sunday Salvacion, Ronald Capati, JA Coching and Elvis Tolentino for another championship bid.

"With both teams almost equal in strength, the game will surely be a test of pride and character," said CSB coach Dong Vergeire.

In the curtain-raiser, the San Beda Red Cubs tackle the UPHR Altalletes while the Staglets lock horns with the LSGH-junior Blazers in the nightcap.

With the exodus of Chester Tolomia and Gilbert Malabanan to the professional ranks, the Altas only have veterans Marcel Cuenco, Anthony Cosme, Ferdinand Aliali, James Quiazon and Ronald Hawkins to rely on.

Arjun Cordero, Jeffrey Bombeo, James Hudencial, Erl Merelos, Carlo Weber and rookie Jerome Paterno form the nucleus of the Red Lions' offensive force.

Bird vows to make Charlotte a winner

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina—Larry Bird is ready to lead a new NBA team to replace the departed Charlotte Hornets.

Making his first public appearance in Charlotte since announcing his interest in bringing the area an expansion team, Bird said on Monday he intends to be as successful as a general manager as he was as a player and coach.

"I can't tell you how long it would take to make the playoffs," Bird said. "But I'll be here a long time - so close the windows and lock the doors."

Bird, a Hall of Famer who led the Boston Celtics to three NBA titles and coached the Indiana Pacers to an Eastern Conference title, is the most famous face of a potential ownership group led by Boston-area businessman Steve Belkin.

Also involved is former Celtics player and coach M.L. Carr, currently president of the WNBA's Charlotte Sting. Bird, 45, would be the team's director of basketball operations, while Carr would handle community relations.

The Belkin group is in negotiations with the NBA for a team to replace the Hornets, who moved to New Orleans after this year's playoffs.

Bird met with reporters after leading a basketball clinic for about 200 local children before the Sting played the Phoenix Mercury. *AP*

SIX DIGIT
4 3 9 6 0 5
(in exact order)

SUERTRES 8 9 2

LOTTO 6/42
20 24 4 11 18 32 Luzon
25 28 24 35 34 22 Vis / Min

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Bare Eye: Unspeakable shame for RP sports /A26

Balalas accepted P220,000 settlement

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR only P220,000, the parents of slain hostage Dexter Balala, dropped homicide charges against former Pasay City Police chief Eduardo dela Cerna, 20 other Pasay policemen, and eight security guards of the Philtranco bus company, according to an official of the Southern Police District.

"The amount was small," said the official who did not want to be named on Monday. "But we have to remember that it was (small) because it came from the pockets of the policemen."

Another ranking Pasay official confirmed that the settlement took place a month after the botched hostage rescue at the Philtranco terminal in Malibay on May 31.

But the Balala couple, Darius and Salvacion, said yesterday that they had not been coerced into dropping the charges against the policemen and security guards.

"We withdrew the case voluntarily," Salvacion said in Filipino.

The Balalas on Monday submitted an affidavit of desistance, saying that their son Dexter, 4, had died from multiple stab wounds inflicted by hostage taker Diomedes Talvo on May 31. The policemen had shot Talvo when he started to stab the boy.

Salvacion and Darius said they decided to withdraw the case because they could not afford the legal expenses. They said they also felt sorry for the policemen, who face dismissal from the service.

"They also have families to take care of," said Salvacion.

But the reported settlement could lead to the dismissal of the criminal charges against the respondents, especially because the SPD, being the main complainant in the case, did not object to the Balalas' affidavit of desistance.

No less than Pasay prosecutor Ronaldo Abrazaldo had admitted that his office was finding it hard to determine which shot fired by the respondents actually killed Dexter.

But even if Dela Cerna and his men escaped criminal prosecution, they could still get administrative punishment for mishandling the hostage incident.

The police Internal Affairs Service (IAS) has reportedly recommended the forced resignation of Dela Cerna and the dismissal of eight others.

Senior Supt. Romulo Adduru, IAS regional director, has reportedly cleared 14 other policemen.

The SPD official said Dela Cerna and his men "deserved" the IAS decision considering that they had committed a "major operational lapse" in the hostage incident.

"Operational lapses are a mortal sin in any police work so how come he's expecting to receive only a reprimand?" the official asked, referring to Dela Cerna who was quoted as saying that he was not expecting to be forced into resignation.

SPD Director Jose Gutierrez was more sympathetic to Dela Cerna who is due to retire on Saturday.

"I understand him," he said in Filipino. "This is not the way to go after serving the police force for more than 35 years. It now appears that all his accomplishments were nothing."

Salvacion also denied that they have been receiving threats to their lives.

"We are not afraid of anything because nobody has been threatening us," she said.

Jaimelita Gariel, who introduced herself as a first cousin of Darius, had told reporters earlier that the Balalas withdrew the charges upon the advice of relatives.

Darius denied knowing Gabriel.

Salvacion claimed they did not consider the P220,000 settlement as "payment for the life of our son."

"They gave us the money willingly," she said in Filipino.

BALALAS ACCEPTED/ A27

Aglipay files resignation

By Martin P. Marfil and Alcuin Papa

AGLIPAY

THE BELEAGUERED chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, has filed his courtesy resignation.

The move was made so that incoming PNP chief Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane would have a free hand in appointing his men, Aglipay said in an interview over Channel 13.

Aglipay is one of seven senior police officials earlier ordered relieved by Interior Secretary Jose Lina for failing to curb illegal gambling.

The relieved officials are questioning the order.

Aglipay and Ebdane were once considered rivals for the post of outgoing PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

Ebdane is expected to take over Mendoza's post on July 4.

Quezon City police chief Supt. Roger Quilang was ordered relieved for failing to curb illegal gambling in his Batasan Hills area of responsibility.

Central Police District deputy director Senior Supt. Avelino Matundan approved Quilang's relief on June 28. Matundan had already gotten approval for Quilang's relief from the NCRPO.

But Quilang's relief is still pending before the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

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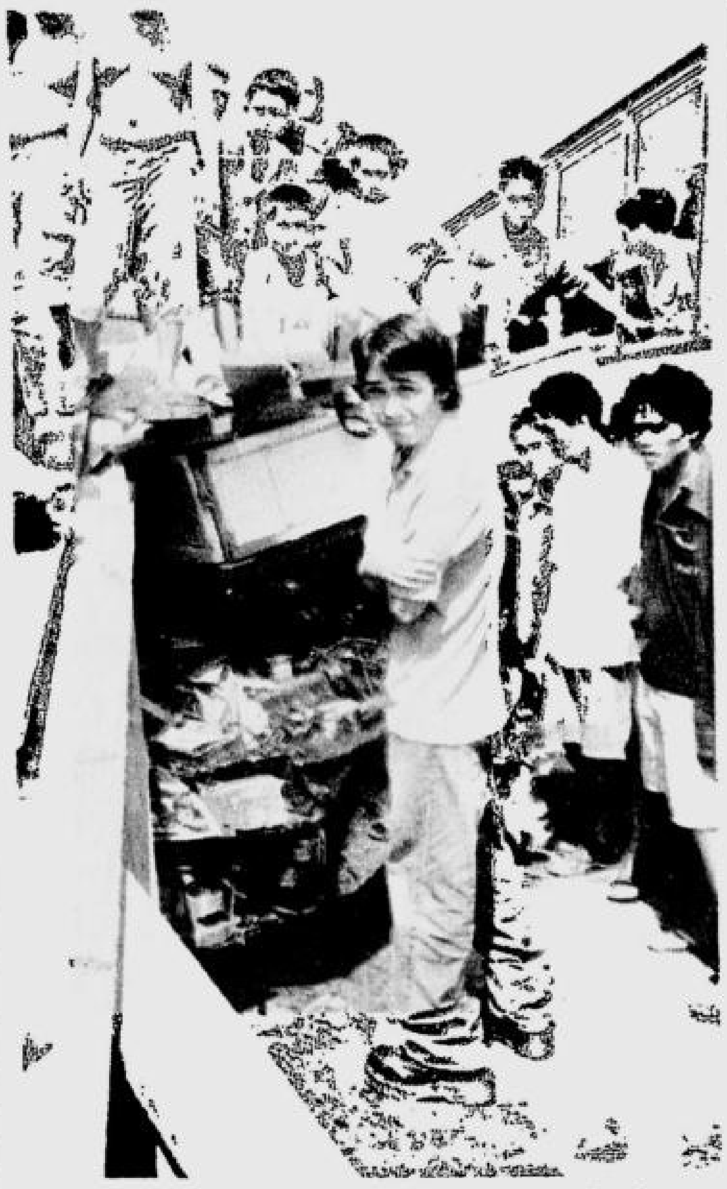

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JOAN BONDOC

Leandro Muñoz in car crash

By Alcuin Papa

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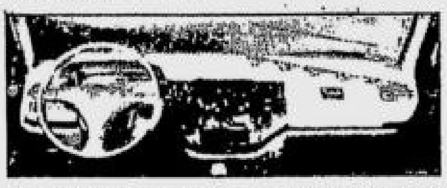

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As hot.
She's hot stuff. But we'd like to think these "most requested" zed logos, ring tones and picture messages from June 26 to July 1 are made of the same stuff. Well, almost.

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LOGO LOVE · LOGO PENGUINS3 · LOGO PREY1 · LOGO THISSIDEUP · LOGO ZEP1

New logos:
LOGO TRIBALEYE · LOGO XTREME · LOGO BOO2 · LOGO BOOKS · LOGO BUS
LOGO EXPLORER · LOGO FOOD · LOGO GATOR · LOGO JESUS2 · LOGO JET
LOGO LATE · LOGO LOVEBUG · LOGO PAYONG · LOGO RACER · LOGO RACING

New picture messages:
PIC TALI · PIC TONGUE · PIC TYPEKITA · PIC URCUTE · PIC ANGELS
PIC CANDLE1 · PIC CRAZY1 · PIC CUPIDS2 · PIC DIVA · PIC ELEPHANT

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Police Siren	Zed	TONE SIREN
Like A Rose	A1	TONE LIKEAROSE
What Can I Do	Corrs	TONE WATCANIDO
Build Me Up, Buttercup	Sound Alike	TONE BUTTERCUP
Say My Name	Destiny's Child	TONE SAYMYNAME
Heaven By Your Side	A1	TONE HEAVENBY
Macho Guwapito	Rico Puno	TONE MACHO

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Type in KEYWORD. Ex. LOGO LOVEBUG, PIC TALI or TONE BABY
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Send to 288.
LOGO RECEIVED.
Save upon receiving logo, picture message, or ring tone.

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To register, type CD REG <name/address/sex/bday(mmddyy)>
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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Bare Eye: Unspeakable shame for RP sports A26

Balalas accepted P220,000 settlement

By Christian V. Esguerra

FOR only P220,000, the parents of slain hostage Dexter Balala, dropped homicide charges against former Pasay City Police chief Eduardo dela Cerna, 20 other Pasay policemen, and eight security guards of the Philtranco bus company, according to an official of the Southern Police District.

"The amount was small," said the official who did not want to be named on Monday. "But we have to remember that it was (small) because it came from the pockets of the policemen."

Another ranking Pasay official confirmed that the settlement took place a month after the botched hostage rescue at the Philtranco terminal in Malibay on May 31.

But the Balala couple, Darius and Salvacion, said yesterday that they had not been coerced into dropping the charges against the policemen and security guards.

"We withdrew the case voluntarily," Salvacion said in Filipino.

The Balalas on Monday submitted an affidavit of desistance, saying that their son Dexter, 4, had died from multiple stab wounds inflicted by hostage taker Diomedes Talvo on May 31. The policemen had shot Talvo when he started to stab the boy.

Salvacion and Darius said they decided to withdraw the case because they could not afford the legal expenses. They said they also felt sorry for the policemen, who face dismissal from the service.

"They also have families to take care of," said Salvacion.

But the reported settlement could lead to the dismissal of the criminal charges against the respondents, especially because the SPD, being the main complainant in the case, did not object to the Balalas' affidavit of desistance.

No less than Pasay prosecutor Ronaldo Abrazaldo had admitted that his office was finding it hard to determine which shot fired by the respondents actually killed Dexter.

But even if Dela Cerna and his men escaped criminal prosecution, they could still get administrative punishment for mishandling the hostage incident.

The police Internal Affairs Service (IAS) has reportedly recommended the forced resignation of Dela Cerna and the dismissal of eight others.

Senior Supt. Romulo Adduru, IAS regional director, has reportedly cleared 14 other policemen.

The SPD official said Dela Cerna and his men "deserved" the IAS decision considering that they had committed a "major operational lapse" in the hostage incident.

"Operational lapses are a mortal sin in any police work so how come he's expecting to receive only a reprimand?" the official asked, referring to Dela Cerna who was quoted as saying that he was not expecting to be forced into resignation.

SPD Director Jose Gutierrez was more sympathetic to Dela Cerna who is due to retire on Saturday.

"I understand him," he said in Filipino. "This is not the way to go after serving the police force for more than 35 years. It now appears that all his accomplishments were nothing."

Salvacion also denied that they have been receiving threats to their lives.

"We are not afraid of anything because nobody has been threatening us," she said.

Jaimelita Gariel, who introduced herself as a first cousin of Darius, had told reporters earlier that the Balalas withdrew the charges upon the advice of relatives.

Darius denied knowing Gabriel.

Salvacion claimed they did not consider the P220,000 settlement as "payment for the life of our son."

"They gave us the money willingly," she said in Filipino.

BALALAS ACCEPTED/ A27

Aglipay files resignation

By Martin P. Marfil and Alcuin Papa

AGLIPAY

THE BELEAGUERED chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, has filed his courtesy resignation.

The move was made so that incoming PNP chief Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane would have a free hand in appointing his men, Aglipay said in an interview over Channel 13.

Aglipay is one of seven senior police officials earlier ordered relieved by Interior Secretary Jose Lina for failing to curb illegal gambling.

The relieved officials are questioning the order.

Aglipay and Ebdane were once considered rivals for the post of outgoing PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza.

Ebdane is expected to take over Mendoza's post on July 4.

Quezon City police chief Supt. Roger Quilang was ordered relieved for failing to curb illegal gambling in his Batasan Hills area of responsibility.

Central Police District deputy director Senior Supt. Avelino Matundan approved Quilang's relief on June 28. Matundan had already gotten approval for Quilang's relief from the NCRPO.

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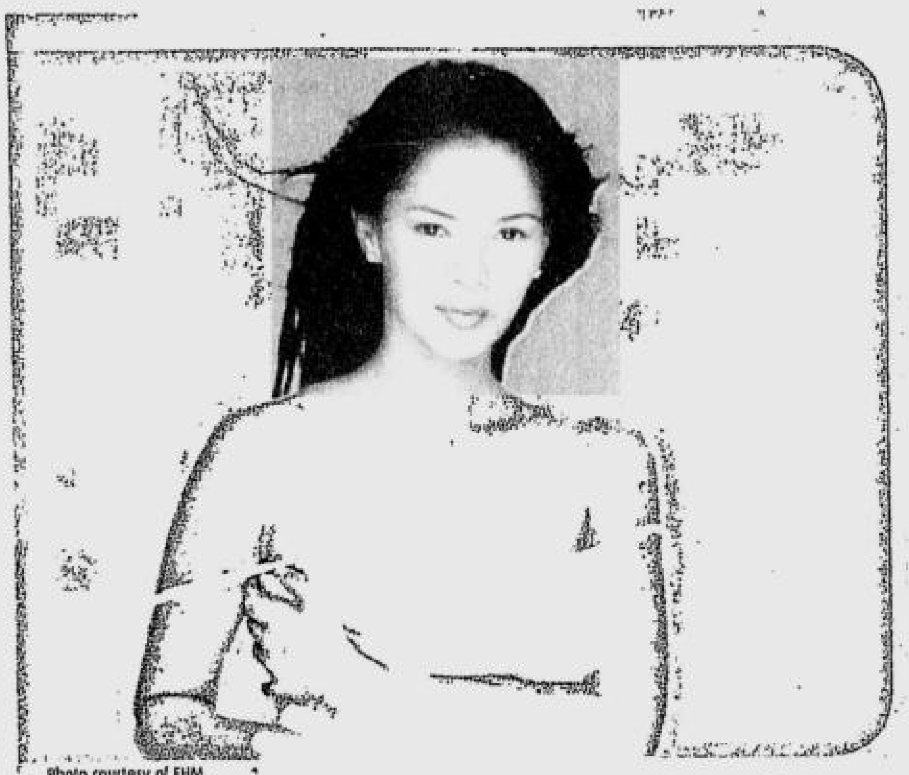

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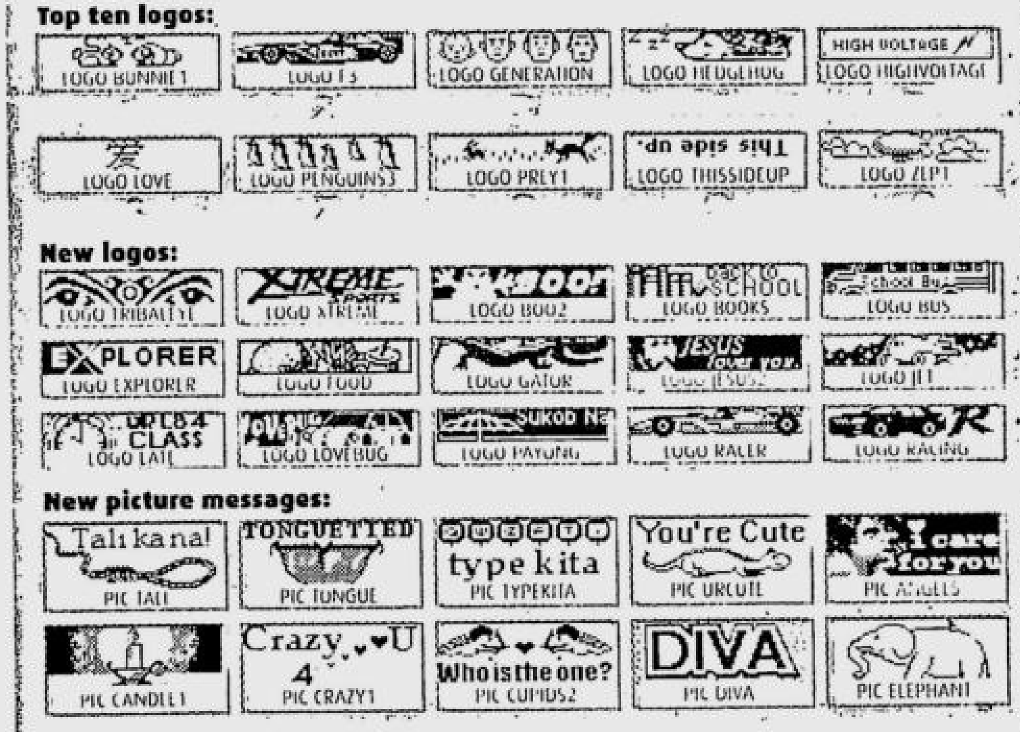

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Await your bonus question and start playing

Unspeakable shame for RP sports

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

(SCHEDULES: The family of dear Doreen Fernandez is inviting friends to a ninth day novena for the late writer tomorrow, 6 p.m., at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park, Makati...There's no stopping Manny Pacquiao from breaking off with promoter Murad Muhammad who paid the IBF super bantamweight champ only $70,000 for his last title defense in Memphis. Pacquiao nearly pulled out from that fight when he learned of the measly fee during the weigh-in. He got less than half of that petty purse after it was divided among him and his handlers. Pacquiao has asked his manager Rod Nazario to finalize negotiations with US promoter Lou DeBella who has offered the IBF champ a three-year multi-million dollar contract. Pacquiao has told my kumpadre Fred Lumba that he might be forced to cut off his ties with Nazario if the manager will not accept De Bella's offer. Lumba said Pacquiao suspected that he has been shortchanged in the deal with Murad.)

* * *

WE are ranked 175th in world football. This was confirmed by no less than Rene Saguisag, freedom fighter who swears Philippine sports must be liberated from the shackles of ignorance and stupidity.

It's, of course, amazing that, with the way football is disregarded hereabouts, the Philippines has remained in the world rankings.

Wrote Ka Rene in his Sideline Slants for Today: "It is good that today we are not represented in soccer in the Himalayas, where just hours before the Yokohama finale, Bhutan and Montserrat clashed for the dubious title of the world's worst team. They are currently ranked Nos. 202 and 203 and at the rate we are going, or not going, in soccer we, now at 175, may soon crowd out the two. Their match was dubbed 'The Other Final,' which Bhutan won, 4-0. Monserrat has a population of under 10,000."

The point here is that we have the big population to support football, wholeheartedly acclaimed the greatest international sport.

In fact, on Sunday, when Brazil and Germany clashed in the World Cup finale in Yokohama, there was an amazing rush among local fans to watch the game live.

* * *

You see, unlike in most other Asian countries like Malaysia and Thailand, the World Cup games were not beamed live to Filipino homes.

Ka Rene himself swore that he had to stay up to 2 a.m. Monday to watch a very delayed replay because "Dream TV appeared only in our dreams."

No matter, when it neared the so-called moment of truth, World Cup fever inevitably swept the metropolis.

Together with Pete Aguila, Yayo's papa, we allowed ourselves to be carried by the tide out there in Makati, where special bars, like Outback and National Sports Grille, were carrying the Brazil-Germany finale live.

No luck. Both places were jampacked, with hordes camping out on the sidewalk to peek through the glass panels.

We moved around, it was already the second half, and we desperately squeezed through a swelter of spectators at Le Boulevardier at the ground floor of the Intercon.

The place was teeming, choking with a horde of excited fans that included expats and foreign diplomats.

* * *

Now I take back my word that nobody cares about football here.

In the Philippines, where basketball is regarded as a religion, football will indeed never become a craze or a national passion.

But it's heartening enough to know that there are enough fans who would rush out of their living rooms to watch a once-in-a-lifetime finale like the one between Brazil and Germany.

Of course, watching a big international match is the sweetest part of the barter.

The fact that there were no advertisers bold enough to support the World Cup for Philippine television spoke of the horrible state of football in the country.

For one thing, how do we cure the populace of its blind adoration for basketball?

Time and again, it's been specified that the Pinoy, tiny as he is, cannot hope to excel in caging because, unlike in soccer, the basketball goal is way beyond his reach.

It's also often said that the Filipino, physically ample to be competitive in football, also has the inborn flair and rhythm to readily adapt to the demands of soccer.

A reading of the country's respectable record in Asian football would speak volumes that the Filipino is a natural for football.

* * *

Well, there are many factors, both mysterious and glaring, which have forced the populace to be stuck with basketball.

For one thing, football may be nice to watch but, unlike basketball, it requires loads of hard, selfless labor to play.

Or has the contention that basketball so well defines the Pinoy *kanya-kanya* system been helping feed the hysterical following for the game here?

Unlike in soccer, it's mostly to each his own in our big basketball leagues here.

You see football, just like basketball, used to be a favorite among Manila sports fans.

But this was during the bygone days immediately after Liberation, when there were enough playing fields around Manila.

Congestion and cruel commercialization have mercilessly eaten up all those great fields, and with them also went the football enthusiasm among city dwellers.

There indeed was a time when we Manila was football country.

"Unless we open our eyes to games such as soccer," wrote Rene Saguisag, "and continue our foolish romance with basketball, we will never produce a Filipino who can become a household word the world over."

Then, with tears in his eyes, Ka Rene noted how Palau, with a population base of under 20,000, has beaten us black and blue in baseball, and right here in Manila at that.

It's an unspeakable shame, *susmaryosep*, he said.

MMDA, LTO to jail drivers with suspended licenses

By Leila Salaverria

THE METRO Manila Development Authority and the Land Transportation Office will jail motorists caught on the road with suspended drivers' licenses.

"Those caught driving with a suspended license will be given a jail term," MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said yesterday.

The MMDA chair said he and Land Transportation Office Assistant Secretary Roberto Lastimoso had agreed to the principle of this policy on Monday, when they met to discuss the traffic situation in the metropolis.

Fernando said jailing the violators would be a better penalty for erring drivers, instead of requiring them to pay a fine, because it would instill more discipline in them.

"It's easy to pay," the MMDA chair said in an interview. "Jail would be a better penalty so they would realize the gravity of their actions. This is meant to discipline them."

Erring drivers are usually required to pay a certain fine, which increases depending on the frequency of their violations.

Fernando said erring drivers frequently ignore the suspension or revocation of their licenses and simply get another one.

There have been instances when one person may have several drivers' licenses, he added.

"Most people ignore the law," he said. "What they do is just go out and get another license when you suspend the one they are using. Sometimes, there are cases when one person has seven licenses."

In a press conference on Monday, Fernando said he wants to resurrect the integrity of the licensing system. He said he wants Filipinos to have respect for the law, and cited that in the United States, people do not drive when their licenses have been suspended.

The MMDA chair also said he and Lastimoso have also agreed to delineate their areas of jurisdiction to avoid overlapping of functions.

"We will specify what areas we will be covering so that people will know who is responsible for a particular place," Fernando said.

He said he hopes this will avert confusion and prevent officers from encroaching on territories of other officers.

He said he would meet again with the head of the LTO to draft the specific rules they have agreed upon and to decide on their areas of jurisdiction.

Housemaid accuses cab driver of rape

By Leila Salaverria

A HOUSEMAID on Monday accused her employer Danilo Tupalar, a taxi driver, of raping her for six months.

The maid, 24, is now four months pregnant. She told police that Tupalar, 46, of Boyle Street in Barangay Palanan, Makati City, began raping her shortly after she started working for him in October 2001. She said the first rape was in November.

The maid told police that Tupalar, who was reeking of alcohol, entered her room with a kitchen knife, pointed it at her neck, undressed her and then raped her. She said he warned her not to tell anyone of the rape and threatened to kill her if she did.

The rapes were repeated several times over six months, the maid said. She also told police that Tupalar had said he would not allow a maid to leave his employ without sleeping with him.

She said the last time Tupalar had raped her was on May 27. She said she left Tupalar on May 30 and asked a friend to accompany her to police to report the rapes.

The victim said that her mother had told her that Tupalar is one of their distant relatives.

Tupalar is currently at large.

Passenger guns down QC robber

SUSPECTED robber William Cabos was shot and killed by an unidentified male passenger of an aircon bus in Quezon City on Tuesday.

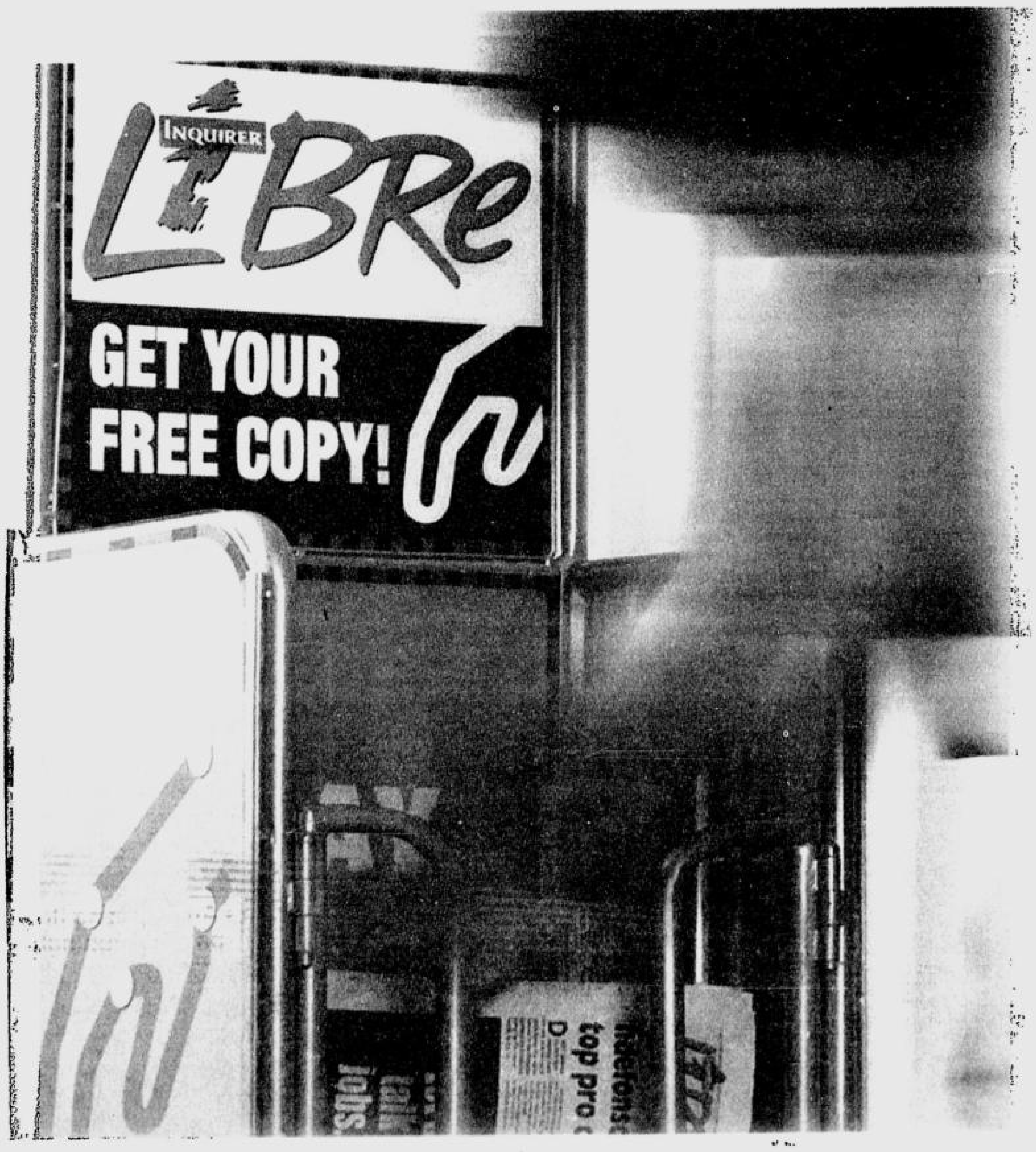
Police said three other robbers were with Cabos, 20, of Parola, Tondo, Manila, when he held up a Cubao-bound Don Mariano bus on the stretch of Quirino Highway near RP Street, Barangay Gulod, Quezon City at around 1:30 p.m.

The four robbers were all set to get down from the bus after taking the passengers' cash and valuables, when one of the male passengers suddenly pulled out a handgun and shot Cabos in the right side of his abdomen, police said.

Alcuin Papa

Pabilis nang pabilis, paaga nang paaga maubos ang LIBRE!

Kuha Na!



Ang Inquirer Libre ay makukuha umpisa 6:00 ng umaga, Lunes hanggang Biyernes, sa mga sumusunod na LRT at MRT stations:

LRT stations: Monumento, 5th Avenue, Abad Santos, Blumentritt, Tayuman, Carledo, Pedro Gil, Gil Puyat, Libertad, Edsa at Baclaran

MRT stations: North Avenue, Quezon Avenue, GMA Kamuning, Cubao, Shaw, Boni, Guadalupe, Magallanes at Taft

INQUIRER LiBRe

The best things in life are Libre

DOH: Salmonella downed Sta. Ana schoolchildren

By Armand Nocum

THE DEPARTMENT of Health yesterday said Salmonella, a foodborne disease, was what caused the outbreak of food poisoning cases in Metro Manila.

As of yesterday afternoon, Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit said a total of 684 children have been taken to different hospitals in Metro Manila.

Salmonella is transmitted through ingestion of contaminated food and water. It is present in contaminated water, raw and undercooked eggs and egg products; raw milk and raw milk products; meat and meat products; and poultry and poultry products.

It is also transmitted by infected food handlers and contaminated utensils.

More than 400 students of the Tomas Earnshaw Elementary School in Sta. Ana, Manila complained of abdominal pains, vomiting, diarrhea and fever over the weekend.

The students were taken to the Ospital ng Maynila, Philippine General Hospital, Trinity Hospital and Lourdes Hospital.

The students reportedly consumed tuna and egg sandwiches, macaroni soup and pineapple juice, prepared at the school canteen.

Most of the students were discharged a day or two after they got sick, according to a statement from the office of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza.

Of the 335 students taken to the Ospital ng Maynila, only three remained for observation and intravenous fluid treatment.

PAIN and worry is written on the face of this little girl, one of several hundred students taken to the Ospital ng Maynila for eating Salmonella-laced sandwiches at the Thomas Earnshaw Elementary School in Punta Sta. Ana on Friday.

JESS YUSON

Planas bent on closing Nayon

By Christian V. Esguerra

AFTER getting President Macapagal-Arroyo's backing on the Nayong Pilipino controversy, Charito Planas yesterday moved to have the park closed once and for all.

Planas, executive director of the Nayong Pilipino Foundation, filed a motion to lift the temporary restraining order that stopped the closure of the park on June 25.

In the motion, Planas said the order of Judge Henrick Gingoyon violated Republic Act 8975 which prohibits lower courts from issuing TROs or preliminary injunctions on government infrastructure projects.

The order specifically violated Section 3 of the Act, which bars lower courts from stopping the "acquisition, clearance and development of the right of way and/or site or location of any national government projects," she said in the motion.

The 30-year-old theme park was closed last week to allow the construction of a taxiway and an access road for the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3, which the President described as a "strategic project," according to Planas.

To emphasize the urgency of projects such as the Naia 3, Ms Macapagal had issued Executive Order No. 79 creating an office that would ensure "on a full-time basis the effective and timely implementation of specific strategic projects."

The President also issued on June 26 Executive Order 111 authorizing the transfer of 8.6 hectares of the Nayong Pilipino to the Manila International Airport Authority.

The absence of the order earlier prompted lawyer Oliver Lozano and park concessionaires to request a TRO and file graft charges against Planas and Miaa general manager Edgardo Manda.

Planas said the TRO was "improvidently issued" because the complainants were not asked to file a bond to answer for the damages to be incurred by the defendants because of the order.

Planas and the concessionaires are set to meet during a hearing on July 10.

Solon files House measure to scrap Malabon cityhood

By Tina Santos

A CALOOCAN City congressman has filed a measure before the House of Representatives to declare as unconstitutional the turning of Malabon into a city.

Rep. Enrico "Recom" Echiverri of Caloocan's District 1 accused Malabon officials of annexing some 40 hectares of land and including it in their new boundary without consulting the affected residents.

Caloocan Mayor Reynaldo Malonzo earlier blamed Echiverri and former city congressman Luis "Baby" Asistio for their alleged failure to oppose the approval of Republic Act 9019 turning Malabon into a city.

The mayor said portions of Libis in Baesa, Caloocan City are now part of Malabon.

"I myself was surprised when President Macapagal-Arroyo signed the law without our congressmen, who were supposed to be our representatives in Congress," Malonzo told affected residents. "(Echiverri and Asistio) had neglected to watch over the boundary of the city."

Malonzo earlier said he would file a petition before the Supreme Court to regain the disputed parcel of land.

But Echiverri just laughed off Malonzo's allegations, saying the mayor's administration should be the one to blame because it failed to get its act together.

Lacking support from the city government, Echiverri said he was alone in the fight against the passage of RA 9010, authored by Malabon-Navotas Rep. Ricky Sandoval.

"Records would show that even at the committee level prior to the approval of the law, I had consistently questioned the bill citing Malabon's claim over the two barangays (Barangay 160 and 161)," Echiverri said.

He said the affected residents were misled into believing that he was not doing his job in defending the disputed property.

On the other hand, Malabon Mayor Amado Vicencio denied they snatched the property from Caloocan, claiming that the land has always been part of their territory even before it became a city.

Arrest order out for ex-child star

By Agnes E. Donato

A QUEZON City court yesterday ordered the arrest of former television child star Sugar Benedicto for twice failing to attend the pre-trial conference of her car theft case.

Judge Ma. Theresa Yadao of QC Regional Trial Court Branch 81 issued the arrest order after Benedicto and her counsel, lawyer Ferdinand Ancheta, again missed her scheduled hearing yesterday.

The pre-trial was initially set for June 10, but it was moved to July 2 because of the non-appearance of Benedicto and her lawyer.

Yadao said the 25-year-old defendant, Vanessa Benedicto in real life, had not appeared in court since she posted bail of P180,000 on May 10.

Benedicto, a mainstay of the TV series "Flor de Luna" and "Mirasol," was accused of stealing the car of businessman Noel Gomez, 40.

Gomez said Benedicto tried to speed off with his Toyota Corona EX Salon (TRW 704) after they took it for a test drive on April 28.

Benedicto reportedly expressed interest in buying the car and asked Gomez to fix the documents for the sale when she tried to drive off with the vehicle.

The defendant was arrested following a car chase.

Once caught, Benedicto reportedly asked for Gomez's forgiveness, saying she tried to steal the car so she could sell it to finance the surgery of her 8-year-old son.

She later pleaded innocent of the charges during her arraignment on May 13.

Vehicle registration, licensing transactions to grow in 2002

MOTOR vehicle registration and drivers' licensing transactions are expected to grow by 11 percent and six percent, respectively, this year from their 2001 levels. Last year, motor vehicle registration volume totaled six million, while drivers' licensing reached four million.

The Land Transportation Office is confident it can cope with the projected increase and even provide better service through the computerization project dubbed the LTO-Information Technology Project.

"The computerization program will transform the LTO into a modern agency that provides better public service in terms of delivery, accuracy and efficiency," said LTO chief Roberto Lastimoso.

Stradcom president and chief executive officer Jose Chua, who heads the P3.4-billion project funded by the private sector, said the program is using a Build-Own-Operate scheme under the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) law.

With the full implementation of the project, Chua said the LTO will have the capacity to process about 12 million transactions a year, generating an increase of 25 percent in government revenues.

The LTO-IT project will make use of an integrated IT system that will interconnect about 250 LTO offices nationwide, automate and integrate its core business processes, such as drivers' licensing and motor vehicle registration, and enable online transaction processing.

Balalas accepted...

From page A25

Two close relatives of the couple told the Inquirer last week that Florencio Mateo, chief of the Pasay City parking and traffic bureau, had made the offer to the Balalas twice during a meeting with the couple in San Fernando, Pampanga, and in a Pasay City court.

Mateo is said to be the cousin of former Pasay police chief Eduardo de la Cerna who was sacked for mishandling the rescue.

Asked to explain the sudden turnaround, Salvacion said they would leave everything in the hands of God.

She stressed that they did not regret dropping the case. The couple earlier told the Inquirer they would consult Deputy Director General Edgar Aglipay, National Capital Region police director, about their decision.

But Pasay City prosecutor Rolando Abrazaldo said on Tuesday that the case was not yet closed.

"We still have to weigh the evidence to determine if we would elevate the case (to the regional trial court)," he said in a report on Tuesday. ***Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Valenzuela goes on a holiday

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo has declared July 11 as a special non-working holiday in Valenzuela City.

The President signed Proclamation No. 209 on June 19 to commemorate the 133rd birth anniversary of the city's most illustrious son, the late Dr. Pio Valenzuela.

The city was named after Valenzuela in 1963.

She said the holiday will give the people the chance to "celebrate the event with appropriate ceremonies."

Dr. Valenzuela, a major figure during the Philippine Revolution, was born in Polo, Bulacan on July 11, 1869. He died on April 6, 1956.

Valenzuela secretly established Katipunan branches in many areas in Morong and Bulacan.

He helped Emilio Jacinto in putting up the Katipunan paper, Kalayaan, using stolen types from the Diario de Manila.

He was chosen to visit Jose Rizal in Dapitan to convince the latter to support the revolution. To fool Spanish authorities, he was accompanied by a blind man who pretended to be a patient of Dr. Rizal.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, July 3, 2002
St. Thomas, Apostle

1st Reading: **Eph 2:19-22**
Gospel: **Jn 20:24-29**

Thomas, the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We have seen the *Lord.*" But he replied, "Until I have seen in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

Eight days later, the disciples were inside again and Thomas was with them. Despite the locked doors Jesus came and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands; stretch out your hand and put it into my side. Resist no longer and be a believer."

Thomas then said, "You are my *Lord* and my God." Jesus replied, "You believe because you see me, don't you? Happy are those who have not seen and believe."

Commentary

Many of my friends consider that to question the Lord is a sin. They had been taught that people should not question God but simply accept things as they are. But isn't prayer a communication with God?

True prayer is true communication with God. God listens to us, even as we also actively listen to God. It is a spontaneous conversation with the Lord and not a scripted dialogue or monologue. As such, in prayer we talk to God, we converse with her/him. We tell her/him all about ourselves—our worries, our joys, our problems, our successes—yes! even our doubts. It is not like talking to a wall, which we never doubt or question.

Far from being a sin, questioning or even doubting God only proves that for us, God exists and is real.

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: claret@cn1.net; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

LEGAL ETHICS—Negligence of lawyer binds client—As a general rule, the negligence or mistake of counsel binds the client, for otherwise there would never be an end to a suit so long as a new counsel could be employed who could allege and show that the former counsel had not been sufficiently diligent, experienced or learned. But if under the circumstances of the case, the rule deserts its proper office as an aide to justice and becomes a great hindrance and chief enemy, its rigors must be relaxed to admit exceptions thereto and to prevent a miscarriage of justice. In other words, the court has the power to except a particular case from the operation of the rule whenever the purposes of justice require it. What should guide judicial action is that a party is given the fullest opportunity to establish the merits of his action or defense rather than for him to lose life, honor or property on mere technicalities. [Citations omitted.] *[En Banc,* Chief Justice Davide, Jr., GSIS v. Bengson Commercial Buildings, Inc., G.R. No. 137448, GSIS v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 141454, January 31, 2002]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 BAD COMPANY	1 SCOOBY DOO	1 IRIS (Exclusive Screening)	1 LIFE OR SOMETHING ... 12:30, 2:40, 4:50, 7:00, 9:10, 11:20	1 MINORITY REPORT
2 SLACKERS	2 THE SUM OF ALL FEARS	2 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION	2 MINORITY REPORT 11:20, 2:20, 5:20, 8:20, 11:20	2 LIFE SOMETHING LIKE IT
3 FOREVERMORE	3 MINORITY REPORT 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30	3 LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT	3 JUST VISITING 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	3 SCOOBY DOO
4 MINORITY REPORT	4 JUST VISITING	MARTIN NIEVERA BACK ONSTAGE 9:00 PM July 5 & 6	4 BAD COMPANY 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	4 JUST VISITING
	5 LEGEND OF THE TITANIC		5 SUM OF ALL FEARS 10:50, 1:20, 3:50, 6:20, 8:50, 11:20	5 BAD COMPANY
	6 LIFE OR SOMETHING ...			
	7 BAD COMPANY			

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1 (DDS)	SLACKERS
2 (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT
3 (DTS)	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
4 GOLD (DTS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
5 GOLD (DOLBY)	JUST VISITING
6 GOLD (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
8	FOREVERMORE
9	LEGEND OF TITANIC
10	SCOOBY DOO

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	FOREVERMORE
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMA GOLD
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1	FOREVERMORE
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING ..
3	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3	SLACKERS
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	BAD COMPANY
5	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

METROPOLIS star
tel 850.4285

1	BAD COMPANY
2	TAMPISAW
3	JUST VISITING
4	FOREVERMORE
5	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	
8	

PREMIERE CINEMA THX
(Makati City) TEL. 751-2010 TO 13

1	BAD COMPANY

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SCOOBY DOO
2	FOREVERMORE

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC
tel 930.9515

1	FOREVERMORE
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3	RESERVE

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	FOREVERMORE
A	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	FOREVERMORE
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	BAD COMPANY
4	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

GOTESCO CINEMA

Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8588

1 (DOLBY)	FOREVERMORE
2	
3	
4	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
5	JUST VISITING
6	SLACKERS
7 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
8 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
9 (DOLBY)	LIFE OR SOMETHING

Gotesco Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Gotesco Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	FOREVERMORE
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3	SLACKERS
4 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
5	JUST VISITING
6 (DOLBY)	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
7 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	TAMPISAW

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2	RESERVE
3	RESERVE
4	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
5 (SDDS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
6	FOREVERMORE
7 (DOLBY)	JUST VISITING
8	BAD COMPANY

Gotesco Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	FOREVERMORE
2	BAD COMPANY
3 (DTS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING .
4	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
5 (SDDS)	MINORITY REPORT

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	TEENAGE SEDUCTION
Lords	TAMPISAW
Jennet	

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
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1	FOREVERMORE
2	BAD COMPANY
3	LIFE OR SOMETHING

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
3	RESERVE
4	FOREVERMORE
5	LIFE OR SOMETHING

New Divisoria Mall DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	FOREVERMORE
2	

Berma
TEL. 8792030 / 8792029

1	FOREVERMORE
2	MINORITY REPORT

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	
2	

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	TAMPISAW
2	FOREVERMORE
3 (DTS)	BAD COMPANY

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BAD COMPANY
2 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE
3 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	FOREVERMORE
2 (DOLBY)	BAD COMPANY
3 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	FOREVERMORE
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	FOREVERMORE
2	DRAGONFLY
3 (DOLBY)	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
2	TAMPISAW
3	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
4 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3 (DTS)	LIFE OR SOMETHING
4	TAMPISAW
5	BAD COMPANY

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	FOREVERMORE
2	BAD COMPANY
3	MINORITY REPORT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	FOREVERMORE
3	BAD COMPANY

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	DISKARTE
2	MAGKAPATID
3	MAMASAN

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	TAMPISAW
2 (DTS)	FOREVERMORE

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	SCOOBY DOO
2	FOREVERMORE
3	SELDA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	MURDER BY NUMBERS
3	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
4	FOREVERMORE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	BAD COMPANY
2	A WALK TO REMEMBER
3 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
4	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY dts SDDS

THX
CMG INTERNATIONAL
PREMIERE CINEMA
NOW SHOWING
BAD COMPANY

SM CINEMA
SM Dial-A-Movie Tel. 633-9999
NOW SHOWING

SM CITY BACOOR
4173666

1	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
2	BAD COMPANY
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	JUST VISITING
5	SLACKERS
6	FOREVERMORE
7	KATAWAN MO ...
8	SUM OF ALL FEARS

SM CENTERPOINT
7149522 -7161416

1	FOREVERMORE
2	JUST VISITING
3	BAD COMPANY
4	LEGEND OF TITANIC
5	MINORITY REPORT
6	KATAWAN MO ...
7	SUM OF ALL FEARS
8	SCOOBY DOO
9	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
10	SLACKERS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
2	JUST VISITING
3	MAGKAPATID
4	BAD COMPANY
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	FOREVERMORE
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
9	A WALK TO REMEMBER
10	TAMPISAW
11	SLACKERS
12	KATAWAN MO ...

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	JUST VISITING
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
4	BAD COMPANY
5	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	SLACKERS
8	KATAWAN MO ...
9	FOREVERMORE
10	LEGEND OF TITANIC
11	A WALK TO REMEMBER
12	SCOOBY DOO

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	A WALK TO REMEMBER
2	JUSTY VISITING
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
5	SCOOBY DOO
6	SUM OF ALL FEARS
7	SLACKERS
8	LEGEND OF TITANIC
9	FOREVERMORE
10	BAD COMPANY
11	KATAWAN MO ...
12	MAGKAPATID

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	SLACKERS
2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
3	KATAWAN MO ...
4	FOREVERMORE
5	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
6	JUST VISITING
7	MINORITY REPORT
8	BAD COMPANY
9	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
10	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
11	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
12	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM SOUTHMALL
8056888

1	LEGEND OF TITANIC
2	JUST VISITING
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
5	KATAWAN MO ...
6	SCOOBY DOO
7	FOREVERMORE
8	BAD COMPANY
9	SUM OF ALL FEARS
10	SLACKERS

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
2	BAD COMPANY
3	MURDER BY NUMBERS
4	I AM SAM
5	DISKARTE
6	RESIDENT EVIL
7	FOREVERMORE
8	MINORITY REPORT

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
2	CLOSED
3	CROSSROADS
4	FOREVERMORE
5	DISKARTE
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	CLOSED
8	RESIDENT EVIL

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	MINORITY REPORT
2	MURDER BY NUMBERS
3	BAD COMPANY
4	A WALK TO REMEMBER
5	MONSTER'S BALL
6	FOREVERMORE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	LIFE OR SOMETHING ...
2	MINORITY REPORT
3	FOREVERMORE
4	BAD COMPANY

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	BAD COMPANY
2	JUST VISITING
3	KATAWAN MO ...
4	FOREVERMORE

SM CITY DAVAO
2978898

1	MURDER BY NUMBERS
2	DISKARTE
3	MINORITY REPORT
4	FOREVERMORE
5	40 DAYS & 40 NIGHTS
6	RESIDENT EVIL

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

SOON TO OPEN! 4 NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART VISION & SOUND

THE PODIUM
18 ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center Mandaluyong City

1	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
2	BAD COMPANY

W/ LATE NIGHT SCREENING ON WEEKENDS 6389701-85

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7	FOREVERMORE
8	SLACKERS
9	TITANIC
10	SCOOBY DOO

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2	BAD COMPANY
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5	FOREVERMORE
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Watered-down Clancy

From page A32

"The Sum of All Fears" is too much of a maze at 914 pages long. Clancy's known for his convoluted narration, something a two-hour film simply cannot accommodate.

Nevertheless, the writers, together with director Phil Alden Robinson ("Field of Dreams" and "Sneakers") are able to deliver a suspense-filled experience with enough surprises, even though what could have been the biggest surprise of the film for non-Clancy readers was already revealed in its trailer.

Climax

Every person who's seen the trailer knows something really bad is going to happen somewhere along the way. One normally expects a film to keep its climax a secret, but at least, the "Sum of All Fears" never tries to pull its punches.

The film also upholds the tradition of its predecessors by convincingly making Clancy's words come to life, something not so easily done when reading his books. For example, very few of us can fully comprehend the author's words when he describes what's inside a submarine and how everything works there. Seeing "Red October" helps us immensely.

"Sum of All Fears" brings us the same pleasure with its credible depictions of the goings-on in the Pentagon war-room, the CIA headquarters and its covert operations (Liev Schreiber's John Clark deserves his own film), the intricacies of diplomatic protocol and the brinkmanship between governments (James Cromwell and Ciaran Hinds in particular are so good playing, respectively, the obstinate American and Russian presidents) and its piece de resistance, the aftermath of a nuclear detonation (executed really well with the chaos bathed in hauntingly pallid colors).

Proof of Clancy's prescience is the fact that the doers of the dirty deed on America in the novel are Muslim terrorists. But perhaps it's a little too close to home on the part of the filmmakers, so for the sake of political sensitivity and correctness, the bad guys become Neo-Nazis trying to foment a full-scale nuclear war between the US and Russia so they could take over what's left after the holocaust.

This is very much un-Clancy-like and illogical. Sure, there might be Neo-Nazis that are as threatening as Dressler (Alan Bates) but what would they want of a world already devastated? Thankfully, with a film as exciting and as fast-paced as "Sum of All Fears" these irrational points are lost as afterthoughts.

Malu Barry returns to Calesa Bar

BARRY

MALU Barry performs in a special show tonight at Calesa Music Bar and Lounge of Hyatt Regency Manila.

With her distinct voice and vivacious personality, Malu is a favorite of Calesa Bar regulars who delight in her rendition of the blues, oldies-but-goodies, torch songs and standards.

Malu holds the record at Calesa Bar for having had the longest stint as a regular performer in the '90s.

Capture the essence of Malu Barry in "The Voice, The Woman, The Music," with her mentor, Maestro Rudy Francisco on the piano.

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SUM OF ALL FEARS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	MINORITY REPORT
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BAD COMPANY
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	JUST VISITING
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SLACKERS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	MINORITY REPORT
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
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MANILA	
EASTERN	
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ODEON	MINORITY REPORT
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ROBEN	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
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TANDEM-2	MONSTER'S BALL
TIMES	COLLATERAL DAMAGE / MIMIC-2
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ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
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QUEZON-1	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
REMAR	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
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A	FOREVERMORE
B	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
C	
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CINEMA-1	DISKARTE
CINEMA-2	TAMPISAW
CINEMA-3	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SCOOBY DOO
CINEMA-6	LEGEND OF THE TITANIC
CINEMA-7	THE SUM OF ALL FEARS
CINEMA-8	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	MINORITY REPORT
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LIFE OR SOMETHING . . .
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	JUST VISITING
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CINEMA-3	SUM OF ALL FEARS
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CINEMA-5	FOREVERMORE
CINEMA-6	MINORITY REPORT
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
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UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
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ON FOUR LEGS.
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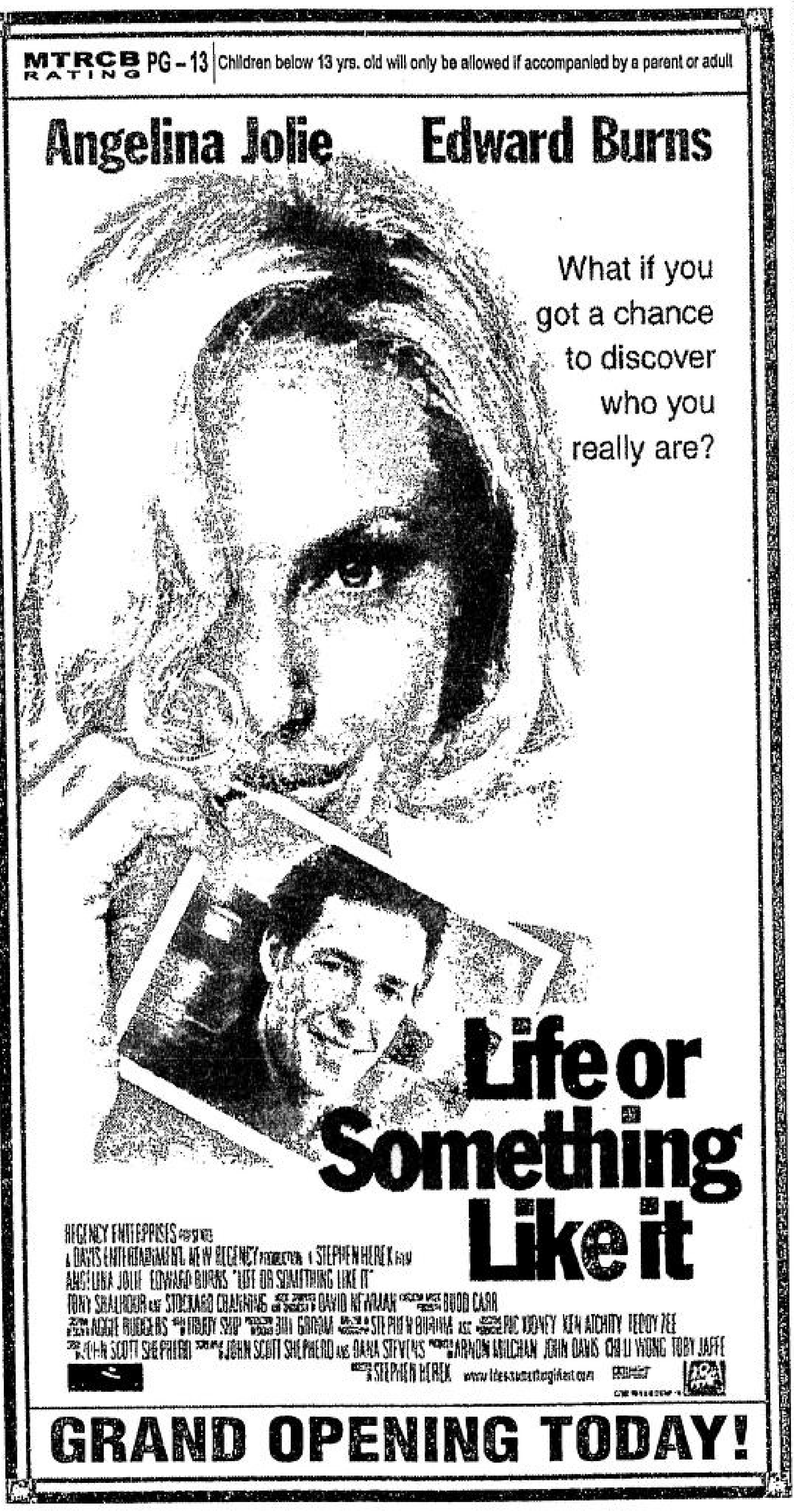
IN CINEMAS 2002



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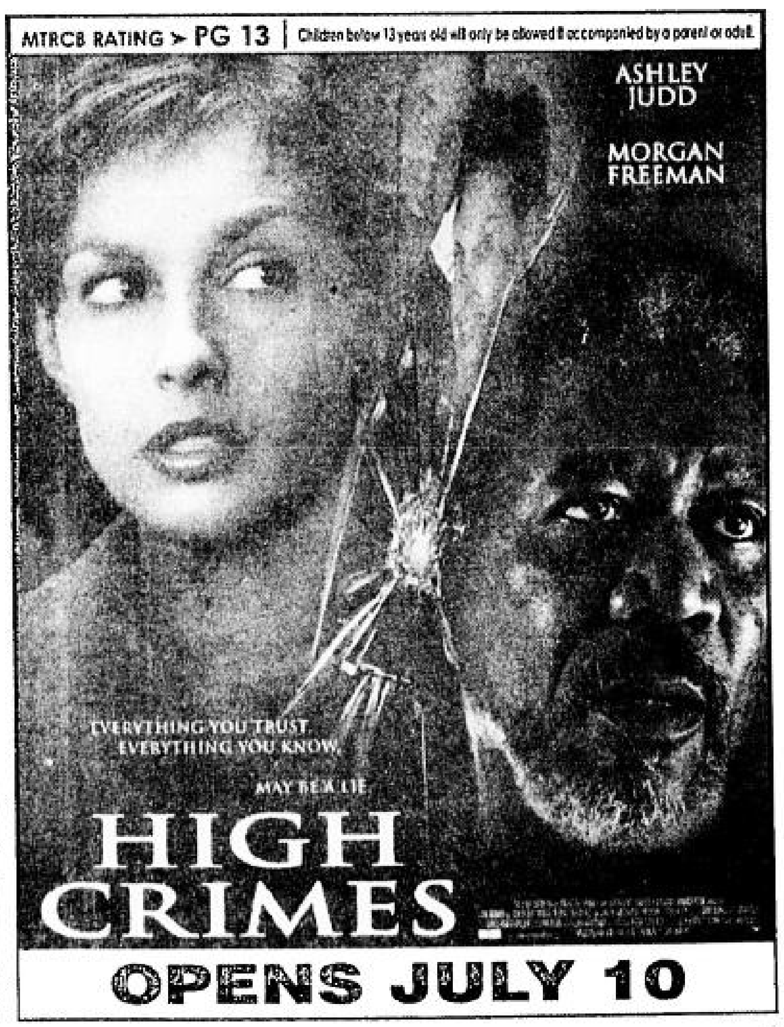

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CRIME CAN BE PREDICTED,

THE GUILTY ARRESTED BEFORE THE LAW IS BROKEN,

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TOM CRUISE

A STEVEN SPIELBERG FILM
MINORITY REPORT

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The Ultimate Nightmare!
A Nuclear Bomb Detonated in the US!

No.1 in the U.S. for 2 weeks US$63Million

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THE SUM OF ALL FEARS

united international pictures

NOW SHOWING

Instructive dovetailing of present and future

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

STEVEN Spielberg has always been interested in science fiction. From "E.T." (The Extraterrestrial) to "A.I.," (Artificial Intelligence) he's delved not just into future-conjecture but also into future-fact, showing how technological advances impinge upon the human psyche.

With his latest film, "Minority Report," Spielberg brings those initial impulses to their first, full fruition. Looking 50 years into the future, he evinces a neo-Orwellian society in which crime has finally been vanquished through the clever expedient of predicting acts of violence before they are committed.

This "Pre-Crime" system of law enforcement is achieved by plugging into the minds of three gifted seers known as Pre-cogs, who sic the cops on criminals before they execute the violent plans in their heads.

Tom Cruise heads the law-enforcement team that determines the criminals' whereabouts by analyzing the images that come from the Pre-cogs' visionary minds. His boss (**Max Von Sydow**) is pleased with his performance, especially now that the experimental system is about to be expanded nationwide.

Trouble is, an ambitious FBI man (**Colin Farrell**) is out to undermine Cruise's credibility, and does so by getting Cruise himself changed with a crime that's about to be committed! The supreme irony of this plot development is not lost on Cruise—and on the people who see this film, for that matter.

(Some background info: It's deemed possible that even a top cop like Cruise can be pushed to committing an act of violence, because he lost his only son six years ago, and has been emotionally and psychologically battered by that loss even since. As it turns out, his "crime" is indeed tied up with the man who he's made to think was responsible for his son's disappearance—but that's getting ahead of the story).

What's relevant at this point of Spielberg's absorbing tale is the fact that the so-called "perfect" system of law enforcement can be compromised by a crafty technological hacker, thus leading to the "conviction" and "imprisonment" of an innocent person like Cruise.

Even more telling is the eventual revelation that it isn't just Farrell's character who has been fooling around with the system, but also somebody much higher up the system's totem pole of power and authority.

Thus does the movie show that, where humans are involved, nothing can be perfect. So, to make people's innocence or guilt dependent on such "perfection" is inherently unjust, even if society is supposed to benefit from its ability to rid it of crime and criminals.

This story is quite compelling in itself, but it soon becomes clear that Spielberg is using it to make viewers ponder even more substantial issues that they can relate to their lives now, not 50 years in the future.

The nature of free will is an issue that Spielberg keeps harping on in this production. Sure, the "Pre-Crime" system can collar criminals—but what if they decide not to act on their violent impulses? This happens to Cruise at one point in the story. Thus does Spielberg show that free will can be the best criminal deterrent of all.

Spielberg also underscores the loss of privacy that people suffer in 2054. Even their private lives are spied into, to keep society peaceful. This goal is laudable, but Spielberg editorializes that the method used to achieve it is unacceptable.

A third issue is the prevalence of advertising in the future, where it has become a veritable coccoon of images and sound that surround people wherever they are. This is all very technologically seductive, but Spielberg's staging of these scenes characterizes this advertising everload as another unwelcome imposition.

Thus, while telling his story about a man ironically being hunted down by the very system that he helped put in place, "Minority Report" is really more interested in the future as a retroactive indictment of some of the aspects of our reality today.

It is this instructive dovetailing of present and future that makes Spielberg's new film a compellingly cautionary viewing experience.

Malu Barry at Calesa Bar

MALU Barry performs in a special show tonight (July 3) at the Calesa Bar and Lounge of Hyatt Regency Manila. Music buffs delight in Malu's husky and torchy rendition of the blues, oldies but goodies, and pop standards.

Show starts at 9 p.m. Maestro **Rudy Francisco** accompanies Malu at the piano. The Hyatt's Calesa Bar is famous for discovering some of the country's top chanteuses and musical-theater talents today.

Barbra on Star World

DON'T miss **Barbra Streisand**'s farewell concert, "Timeless," on Star World at 8 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Friday, July 17.

Her two-night show at the MGM Grand Hotel in Las Vegas was an SRO affair attended by celebrities like **Celine Dion**, **Bryan Adams**, **Neil Diamond** and **Shirley MacLaine**.

'The Ticket'

EVERY Saturday at 6:30 p.m., Star Movies telecasts "The Ticket," a fast-paced program devoted to film and live entertainment.

VJ **Asha** hosts the program, which visits film sets, premieres and press conferences, and provides an in-depth look into filmmaking.

Almost censored

GEORGE Sison's monthly TV show, "Will Your fortune . . . In the Game of Life," has inspired some viewers to develop a more positive attitude about life. Recently, however, a three-man committee of the MTRCB decided, by 2-1 vote, to nix the telecast of the next installment of the show. The basis? The show propagated "cultism" and was "contrary to good customs."

It's a good thing that the show was reviewed again en banc by the MTRCB members, who reversed the first decision and approved the show for telecasting. It will be seen on GMA-7 at 11:30 p.m. on July 3.

The episode, directed by **Tato Malay**, focuses on the need for people to reinvent themselves to transform their lives. Incidentally, this fifth installment in Sison's series of TV shows is based on his forthcoming book to be launched this month, "Will Your Fortune . . . A Miracle Awaits You."

Sison is the founder of the Temple of Prayer, Peace and Prosperity, an ecumenical and nonsectarian transformational and development center. He is also the district president and ambassador-at-large of the International Thought Alliance, a worldwide federation of well-being center, spiritual learning institutions and New Thought churches.

Bands perform at 3-day mall sale

NXT Level and a fast-rising alternative rock band Chico Sci join other bands in entertaining shoppers at Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall when it holds its three-day sale starting July 5.

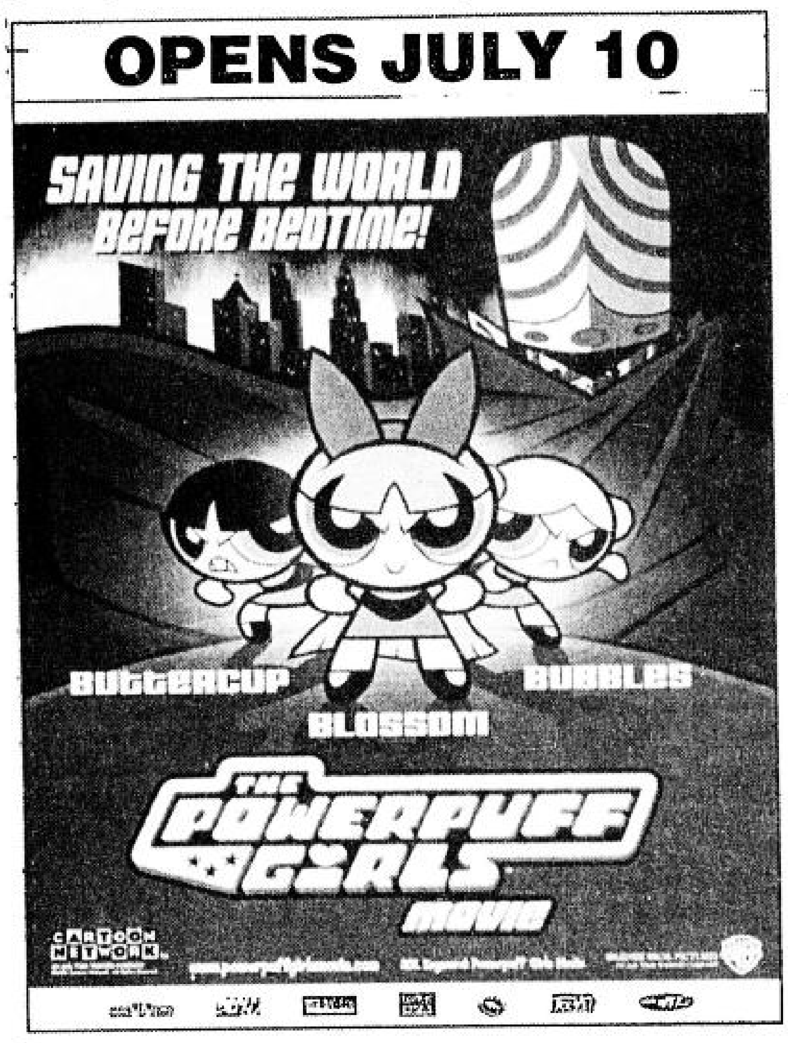
The bands will perform on the second day of the sale on July 6.

Chico Sci will also launch their album in an outdoor evening concert.

Other activities include a mass blood donation drive with the theme, "A Little Pain, A Life to Gain" on July 5 and the Casio showcase of its latest equipment in the "Lights on Tour" event.

Sta. Lucia department store, supermarket, Home Gallery, SLE Essentials, Planet Toys, participating boutiques, food outlets and The Brick Road are offering up to 50 percent discount during the three-day sale.

For the raffle, get a chance to win a 29-inch flat screen TV from Konka for every P300 single or accumulated purchase from receipts.



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THE SUM OF ALL FEARS - P 13 11:45, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45	JUST VISITING - GP 11:50, 1:50, 3:50, 5:50, 7:50, 9:50	LIFE OR SOMETHING - P 13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
BAD COMPANY - P13 12:30, 2:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	SLACKERS - R 18 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	MINORITY REPORT - P13 12:50, 3:50, 6:50, 9:50

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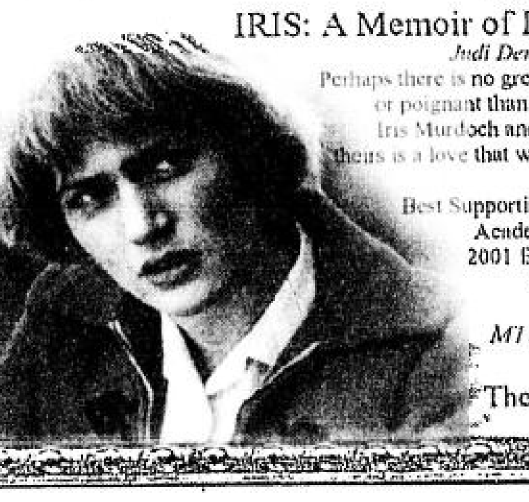

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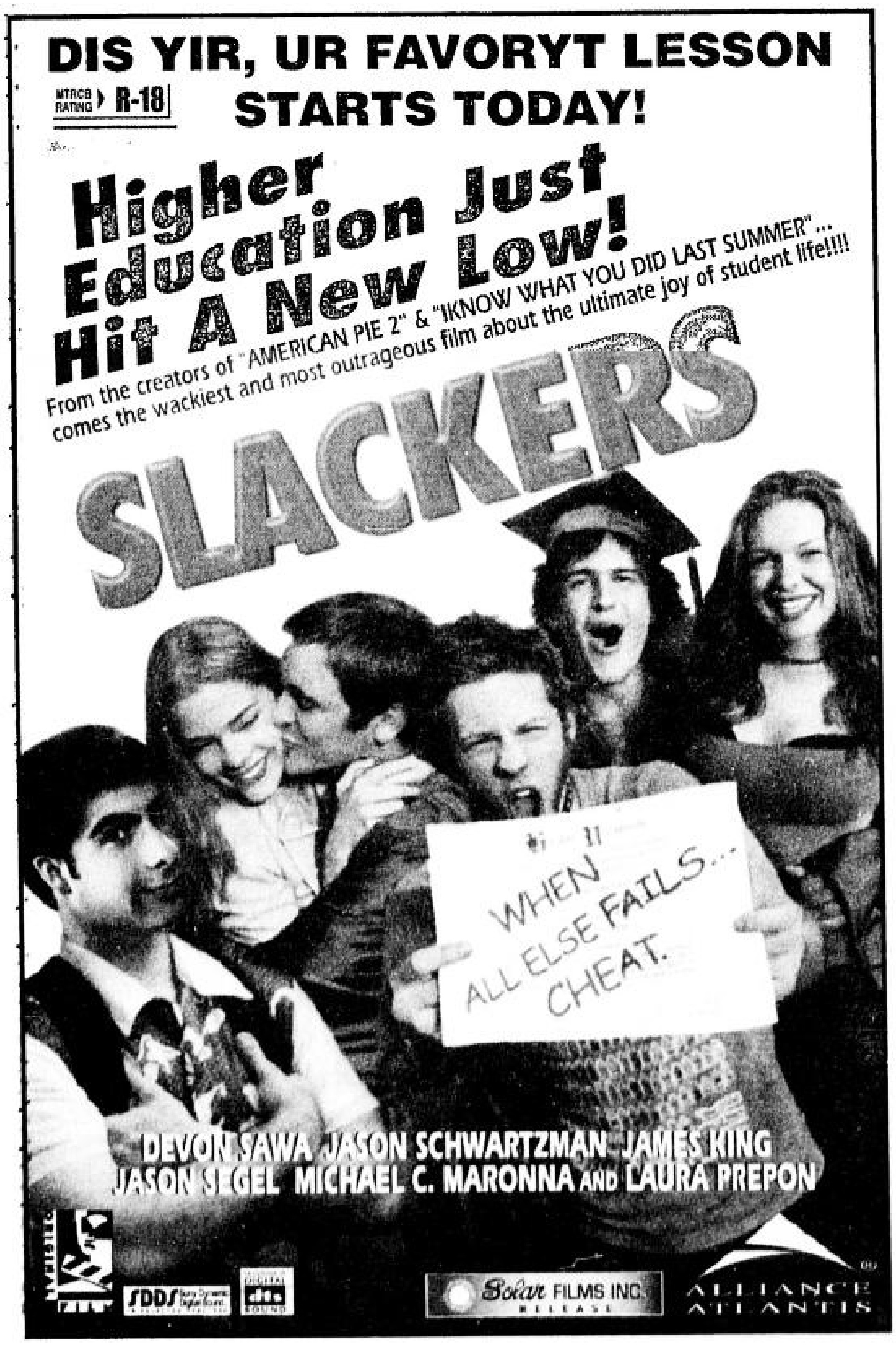
Judi Dench, Jim Broadbent & Kate Winslet
Perhaps there is no greater treasure in life more cherished or poignant than enduring love. For British novelist Iris Murdoch and famed literary critic John Bayley, theirs is a love that will last them both of their lifetimes
Best Supporting Actor (Broadbent), 74th Annual Academy Awards; Best Actress (Dench) 2001 British Academy Film Awards; Best Supporting Actress(Winslet), 2001 L.A. Film Critics Association
MTCB Rating: Restricted 18 (R)
COMING SOON
The King is Alive, July 10-16

JUST VISITING

MTRCB RATING ▶ G General Patronage
ALL AGES ADMITTED
Fun and fantasy for the whole family!
'Just Visiting' opens TODAY !
When a wizard uses a flawed time-travel potion and bungles his magic spell, a noble knight, Count Thibault, and his clumsy servant, Andre, find themselves transported from 12th century medieval France to 21st century modern-day Chicago!
Confused, lost and overwhelmed, the pair meets hilarious misadventures with automobiles, electricity and indoor plumbing. They enlist the help of Thibault's descendant Julia Malfete as they find their way back to their own time, armed with the timeless values of honor and courage.
Based on a phenomenal box office hit in France, JUST VISITING is a heartwarming comedy adventure for the entire family. Loaded with special effects and laugh-out-loud comic moments, JUST VISITING is a movie-going treat for all ages.
JUST VISITING stars Jean Reno, Christina Applegate and Christian Clavier, and is directed by Jean-Marie Gaubert from a screenplay by Clavier & Jean-Marie Poire & John Hughes.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MTRCB RATING ▶ R-18
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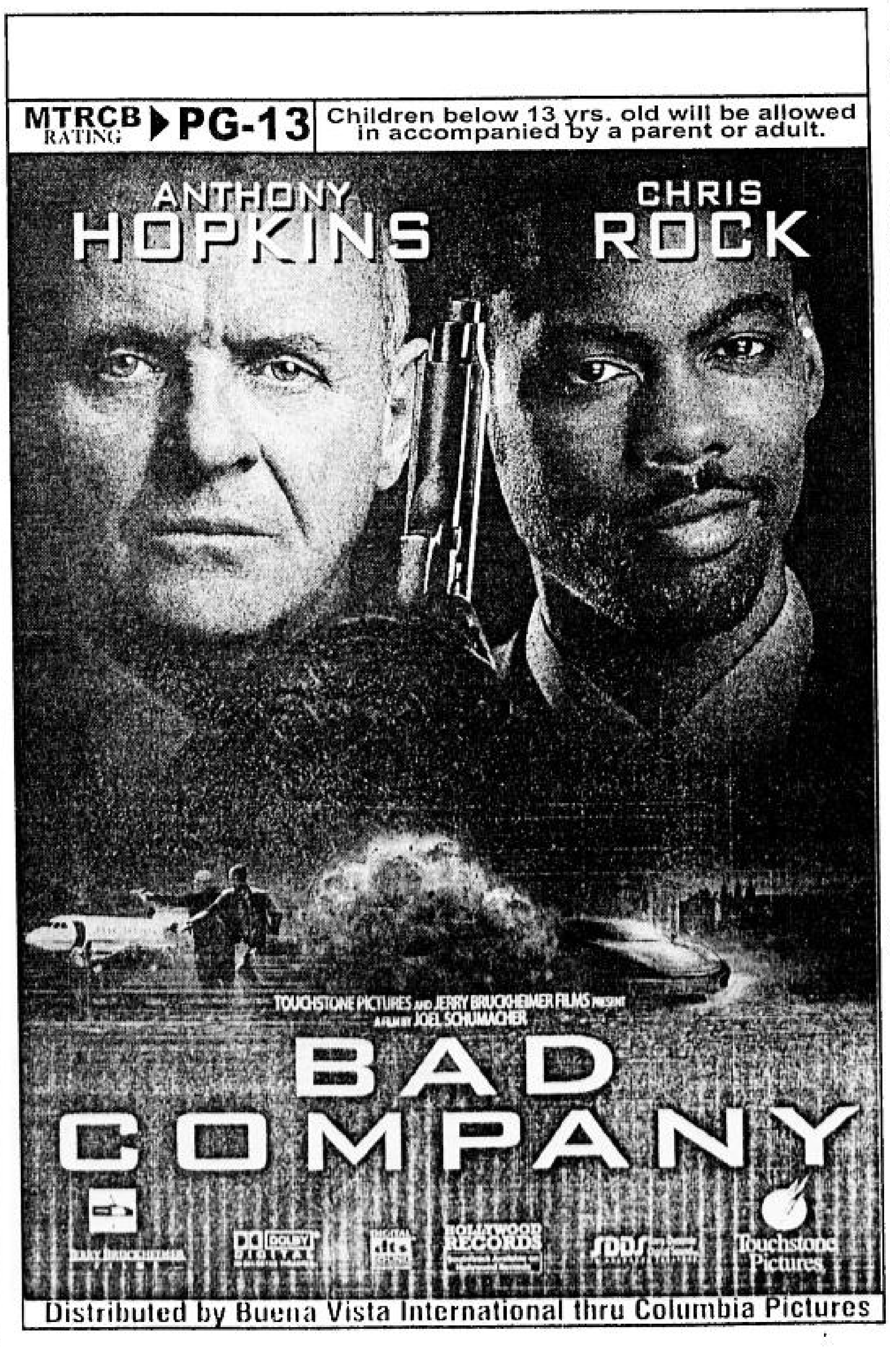
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TOUCHSTONE PICTURES AND JERRY BRUCKHEIMER FILMS PRESENT
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Touchstone Pictures
Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

'SUM OF ALL FEARS'

Watered-down Clancy

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

REVIEW

IT'S EASY to understand why a film like "Sum of All Fears" would have such a strong resonance among Americans.

After Sept. 11, all films set in the US with plots involving terrorists and doomsday scenarios no longer call for a suspension of disbelief. They're almost like reality theater. American filmmakers today can't even make a film version of Tom Clancy's "Debt of Honor" anymore. The book's climax, where a 747 is deliberately crashed into the Capitol building and kills the American president and most of the US Congress, would perhaps be too painfully evocative or redundant.

But for us Filipinos, whose experience with terrorism is relegated to a bunch of vainglorious bandits in Basilan (the Abu Sayyaf are terrorists only in the same manner that politicians are public servants), a popcorn movie about two superpowers pushing each other (and the whole world along with them) to the abyss of nuclear disaster is just one good piece of cinematic entertainment.

In the case of "Sum of All Fears," the original material may have been watered down a bit, but it's still just as entertaining.

Not a prequel

I've read most of Clancy's old stuff and I recently reread "Sum of All Fears" because my friend who went with me to see the film kept asking me things, like why is Jack Ryan, Clancy's hero, decades younger? Is this some sort of a prequel? Why is the film set in the present? Are these matters based on the novel?

Last question first. Clancy wrote the novel more than a decade ago, so it can't be set in the present. It can't be a prequel either because "Sum of All Fears" is Clancy's sixth novel since "The Hunt for Red October."

The film's contemporary setting, however, is not really a stretch because both Russia and the United States still have an estimated 11,500 nuclear warheads each. Scientists say this is enough to destroy all life on the planet seven times over. So the two countries, given the unlikely but still possible circumstances, can still do a "dance of death" should they want to, and a reality-based film like "Sum of All Fears" can still claim the theme to be logical.

But the film's writers, Paul Attanasio ("Quiz Show," "Donnie Brasco") and Daniel Pyne ("Any Given Sunday") have come up with a screenplay quite different from its source novel, with only the basic plot and some characters as the holdovers.

Glaring difference

The most glaring difference of course is a Jack Ryan who's just starting his career in the CIA as an analyst. He's not the courageous, middle-aged senior spy we've come to know in Clancy's novels. His wife, Dr. Cathy Muller, (Bridget Moynahan of "Serendipity" taking over Anne Archer's role) is just a woman he's dating.

Played by Ben Affleck with a refreshingly boyish charm, the reworking of Ryan's character is perhaps a smart ploy to hook a younger demographic into the franchise. Affleck may not have the presence of Harrison Ford (who played Jack Ryan in the last two Clancy film adaptations) and the swagger of Alec Baldwin (in "Red October") but he really isn't bad. His Jack Ryan is more like us, and his lack of confidence is just appropriate for a film that seems bent on wholesaling the unpredictable.

ONSCREEN RAPPORT. Morgan Freeman (left) and Ben Affleck in a teacher-student relationship in Clancy's latest novel turned into a movie.

The teacher-student relationship he shares with his boss William Cabot (an ever enjoyable Morgan Freeman) is effectively fleshed out in scenes replete with both earnestness and deft comic touches. Freeman and Affleck have this nice onscreen rapport going throughout the whole film.

The condensation of the novel's plot and its subplots is inevitable.

WATERED/ A29

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Assunta will still change her mind, says mom

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

ASSUNTA de Rossi's controversial romance with Negros Occidental Rep. **Jules Ledesma** has brought grief to her mother, **Nenita Schiavone** and created a gap between Assunta and her younger sister, **Alessandra de Rossi**. Both Nenita and Alessandra are objecting to the relationship.

Since Assunta left their house three weeks ago, she has refused to communicate with her mom and sister. Still, Assunta seems dead set on marrying Jules in 2004, even if they have been together for only three months.

Mommy Net, as Assunta's mom is called in show biz circles, said she was surprised when she learned of her daughter's relationship with Jules early last month. She had just returned from a three-week trip to Italy where she visited her husband, **Luigi Schiavone**, and their two younger daughters, **Margherita** and **Isabel**. She said she had to cut short her trip after she heard the talk about Assunta and Jules.

"*Ang daming naglalabasan na balita* and I didn't really know what to believe *kaya bumalik na lang agad ako,*" Assunta's mom said.

She said that before she left for Italy, her daughter hadn't completely gotten over her breakup with cager **Rommel Adducul**.

"*Nagulat ako* because I know how much she loved Rommel," Mommy Net said. "*Pero masyado siyang nasaktan* because he made her choose. *Naging* Born-Again Christian *kasi si* Rommel and he wants to be a pastor.

"He didn't like Assunta to continue playing sexy roles. *Hindi rin nga naman magandang tingnan na* pastor *ka tapos ang* girlfriend *mo nagpapa*-sexy *sa* movies."

Apparently, Assunta wasn't ready to give up her daring roles, which brought her stardom in the first place. Was she merely on the rebound when she got involved with the widower Jules, who is 22 years her senior?

In a TV interview, Mommy Net said her daughter has been living in with Jules since she moved out of the family house.

"I told her that if she didn't want us to mind her business, she should get her own house," the mother said. "People won't stop talking about them if she lives with Jules even when they're not married yet."

She said that she's afraid Assunta is not making the right decision because when she asked her which guy she really loved, the actress told her, "*Mas mahal ko si* Rommel."

"I'm afraid that she might not know what she's doing," the mother said. "She's confused and there are pressures from all sides. She's only 19. She'll still change her mind."

She said Jules could be influencing Assunta's decisions. He is said to be controlling even Assunta's show biz earnings.

A large part of Assunta's income goes to the construction of the family house in Maglie, Italy, where her father and two sisters are based. **Manny Valera** manages both Assunta and Alessandra's careers.

"The house is not yet finished so I wanted to stop her from spending too much," Mommy Net said. "I don't stop her from buying what she wants but lately, what she's been buying for herself are impractical things."

But Mommy Nenita said she continues to reach out to her daughter and hopes their relationship would be ironed out soon.

She said she has not had any major headache as far as Alessandra, who is also romantically involved with actor **Polo Ravales**, is concerned. She accompanied the 16-year-old Alessandra to Hong Kong for four days last week, where she taped special episodes of GMA 7's youth-oriented show, "Click."

Polo also went with Alessandra, but he stayed in a separate hotel room.

Assunta's Italian dad is not meddling in her daughter's affairs. He reportedly told his wife that Assunta, the eldest of their four daughters, is 18 and is therefore at the right and legal age to get married.

Exposing Richard

THREE months after he switched networks, **Richard Gomez** has been getting much-deserved exposure on GMA 7, which he was not getting in his last few months in the rival network.

At 37, Richard still oozes with sex appeal and overflows with talent. He made the right move in crossing over to another network.

On GMA, Richard initially hosted a show biz-oriented show ("S-Files," with **Janice de Belen** and **Paolo Bediones**), a first in his 17 years in the business and something that he had always dreamed of doing. And he proved he could do it. He has tackled some of the most controversial issues in tinseltown and even done exclusive interviews with the celebrities involved.

GOMEZ. He will soon be seen on TV everyday.

Some show biz stars are apparently comfortable with him as the interviewer. When **Lea Salonga** was in town last month to do a one-night concert at the PICC and launch her new album of Broadway songs (from BMG Records Pilipinas), we heard that Lea's mom, **Ligaya Salonga**, preferred Richard to do the interview.

Richard was also given occasional hosting stints on the Sunday noontime show, "SOP," which is up against "ASAP," his erstwhile program on ABS-CBN.

In "SOP," Richard also gets to sing live, which he used to do on "ASAP."

This month, Richard gets to flex his dramatic muscles as he stars with **Christopher de Leon** in GMA 7's forthcoming soap, "Ang libigin ay ikaw." The cast also includes **Alice Dixson** and **Lani Mercado**.

The network's promo plug tags "Ang libigin ay Ikaw" as a cinenovela, a brand new concept for primetime TV which combines the elements of movie and television.

That means viewers will see Richard on TV practically every day of the week. That's exposure for you.

Box-office hit

CONGRATULATIONS to the young loveteam of **Jericho Rosales** and **Kristine Hermosa**, whose first solo movie together, "Forevermore," made a killing at the tills on its opening day.

The feel-good romance-drama grossed more than P6 million last June 26, when it started its regular theater run in Manila.

The popularity of Jericho and Kristine is bolstered by their daily ABS-CBN soap, "Pangako sa 'Yo," which has gained a loyal following not just in the country but in other parts of the world where it is aired on The Filipino Channel (TFC), like the United States, Europe and the Middle East.

"Forevermore" was inspired by Side A Band's hit of the same title. The movie is the first directorial job of **John D. Lazatin**. It also stars **Michelle Bayle** as Jericho's girlfriend from Manila. Veteran actor **Nestor de Villa** plays Jericho's *haciendero* dad

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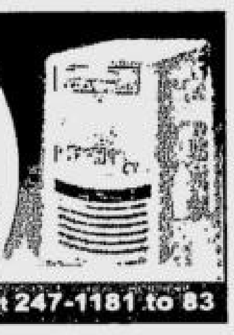
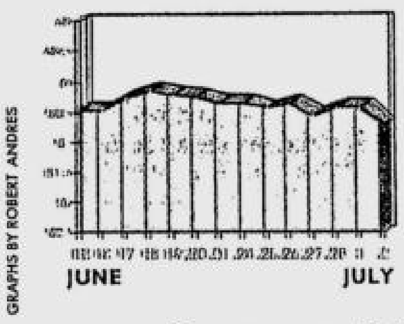


BSP to ease insurance cross-selling rules

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO - DOLLAR



PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 50.73 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 2, 2002

¥ 120.34 = $1

As of 5 p.m., July 2, 2002

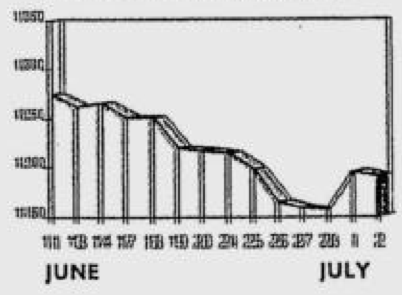
GOLD: $313.30/313.80

per ounce Hong Kong, July 2, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares down

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B4)

SHARES finished lower yesterday following Wall Street's overnight losses, traders said.

The 30-company Philippine Stock Exchange Index was down 5.26 points, or 0.4 percent, at 1,190.11 after Monday's technical rebound, which bolstered the index by 3.4 percent.

Contributing to the fall was blue chip Globe Telecom, which closed down P10, or 1.8 percent, at P555 on profit-taking after rising 8.6 percent Monday.

Ayala Land was another active issue, falling 10 centavos, or 1.7 percent, at P5.70 on foreign selling.

SHARES/ B4

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas is set to relax today its cross-selling policies and allow a bank owning at least 5 percent of an insurance company to sell the latter's products in its branches.

A senior BSP official said the policy-making Monetary Board would approve in its regular meeting today a relaxed regulation on the so-called bancassurance or cross-selling of financial products in bank premises.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters Tuesday night that monetary authorities were considering easing the equity limits from a "commercial bank subsidiary" to simply an "affiliate" or an insurance firm where a lender holds less than 50 percent.

"We can only liberalize it to the extent that the law (the General Banking Act) allows it. So we can bring it down to the affiliates but as to how much, the board still has to decide," Buenaventura said.

The General Banking Act of 2000 allows lenders to engage in non-allied undertakings down to their affiliates. Currently, however, very few commercial banks are affiliated with insurance firms, Buenaventura said.

This was the reason why the Monetary Board had agreed in principle to thoroughly relax the policy. The move should also spur insurance firms, particularly foreign groups, to sell at least 5 percent of their equity to local banking giants or for lenders to acquire insurance groups.

New York Life, for instance, is considering selling a 5-percent equity to a local commercial bank. Other foreign insurance firms are expected to do the same.

Last week, the central bank was deluged with letters from groups like the American Chamber of Commerce opposing its plan to limit cross-selling to products of subsidiaries.

A BSP official pointed out, however, that even if the Monetary Board relaxes the equity limits, the central bank would only allow commercial banks to sell products approved by the Insurance Commission. These would include life, non-life, and mutual fund products.

This means that the accommodation would not extend to preneed products because these are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

"We have to limit it to insurance products approved by the Insurance Commission because if something happens, the risks must be shouldered by the insurance firm and not by the bank," a BSP official explained.

BSP/ B5

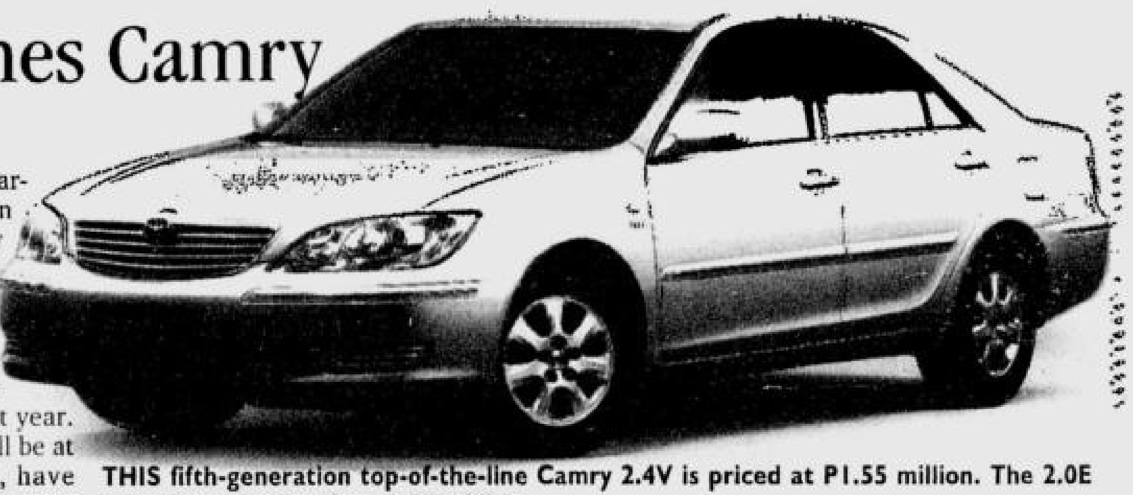
Toyota launches Camry

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TOYOTA Motor Philippines Corp. is targeting up to 40-percent market share in the highly competitive mid-sized luxury sedan market with the faster, sleeker and roomier Camry.

TMPC spokesperson Ariel de Jesus yesterday projected sales of 80 units a month this year for the Camry or four times the unit's monthly average last year. Reservations for the Camry, which will be at Toyota showrooms starting today, have

TOYOTA/ B2



THIS fifth-generation top-of-the-line Camry 2.4V is priced at P1.55 million. The 2.0E variant is available for P1.25 million.

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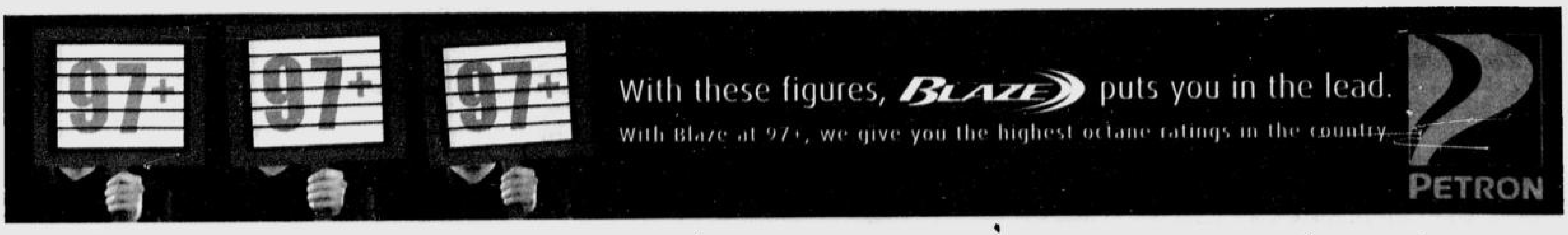
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BAP asks gov't to clarify tax rules on foreign banks

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S biggest association of bankers has asked the Macapagal administration to clarify its policies on taxes levied on the earnings being remitted by foreign banks operating here to their parent companies abroad.

The Bankers Association of the Philippines said the government should come up with a clear stand on the issue following the Court of Tax Appeals' recent decision to slap a 10-percent tax on the income that foreign banks were remitting.

"This has become a concern of foreign banks in the country because it would go against the grain of encouraging them to set up here," BAP president Cesar Virata told reporters on Thursday.

Virata, chief executive of Rizal Commercial Banking Corp., disclosed that the Court of Tax Appeals decided in March that the earnings being remitted by the local unit of Dutch lender ING Bank was subject to a 10-percent tax.

This ruling will make the local operations of foreign banks less viable, Virata warned.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura supported the BAP's position on the issue.

Under the General Banking Act of 2000, offshore banking units, as well as transactions of non-residents made through foreign currency deposit units, are exempted from any form of taxes.

Confronted with a gaping budget deficit, the government has been considering an increase in the taxes levied on OBUs and FCDUs.

"This is something the government has to review because it will have serious implications to the financial sector. We have to make sure that the laws are consistent with the intent, and I don't think the intention at this time is to drive them away," Buenaventura said in a separate interview.

"FCDUs and OBUs have been a major source of financing. During times of crisis, they have provided us with a form of secondary reserves," he added.

He explained that these sources included deposits and savings of overseas Filipino workers, which had made the country's dollar deposits relatively more stable than those of other countries in the region.

PSE urged to lift freeze on free float rule

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has called on the Philippine Stock Exchange to implement the minimum free float rule in order to stimulate trading activity in the stagnant stock market.

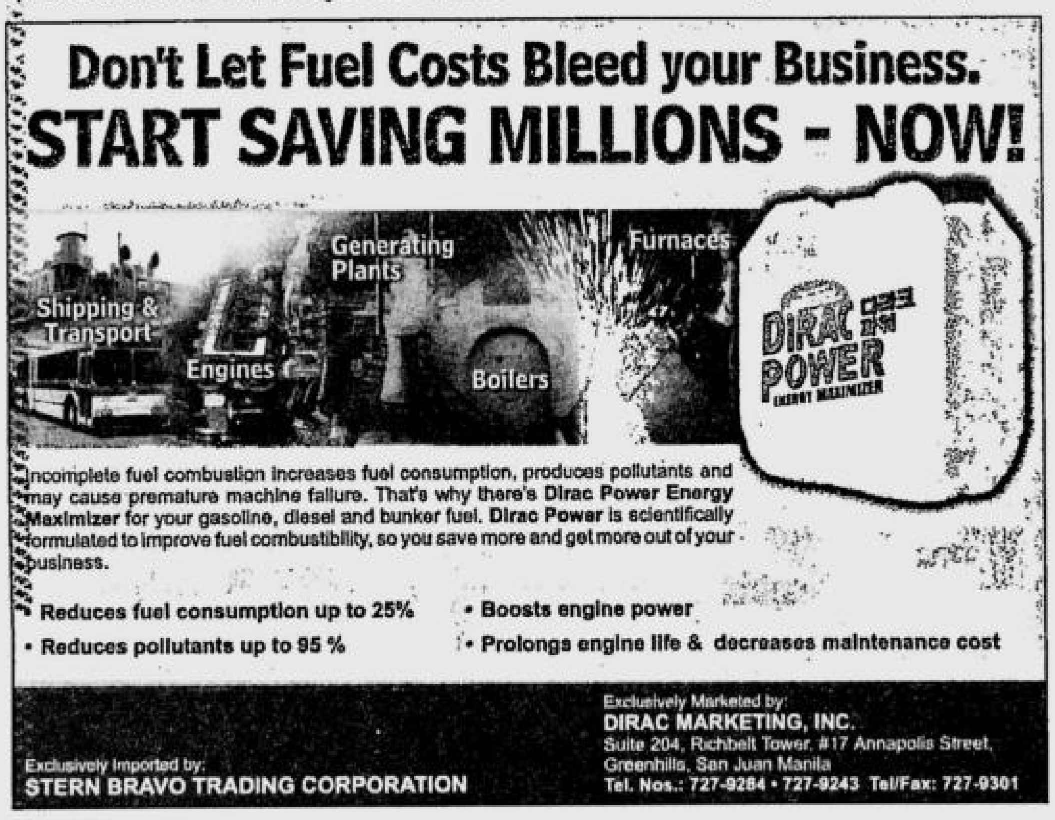
In a meeting with PSE president Ernest Leung, chair Vivian Yuchengco and other PSE officials on Monday, SEC Chair Lilia Bautista urged the exchange to lift the suspension on the free float rule. This rule provides that 10 percent to 30 percent of a listed company, depending on market capitalization, should be in the hands of the public or stockholders other than the majority or strategic shareholders, directors and officers of a listed firm.

The suspension of the rule resulted in a drastic decline in the available stocks in the market as many listed companies bought back their shares that were previously in free float.

The PSE suspended the rule five years ago after retail magnate Henry Sy complained that it was limiting him from buying more shares of his listed firms.

"The position of the SEC is that we don't know if we're really inviting investments (in the stock market) under these circumstances (illiquid stocks)," SEC associate commissioner Jesus Martinez told reporters yesterday.

Under the rule, listed companies that do not maintain the minimum free float level face are to be delisted. In response to Bautista's call, however, PSE officials said bargain prices of many issues prompted several companies to buy back their shares.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AUB targeting 20% ROE in '02

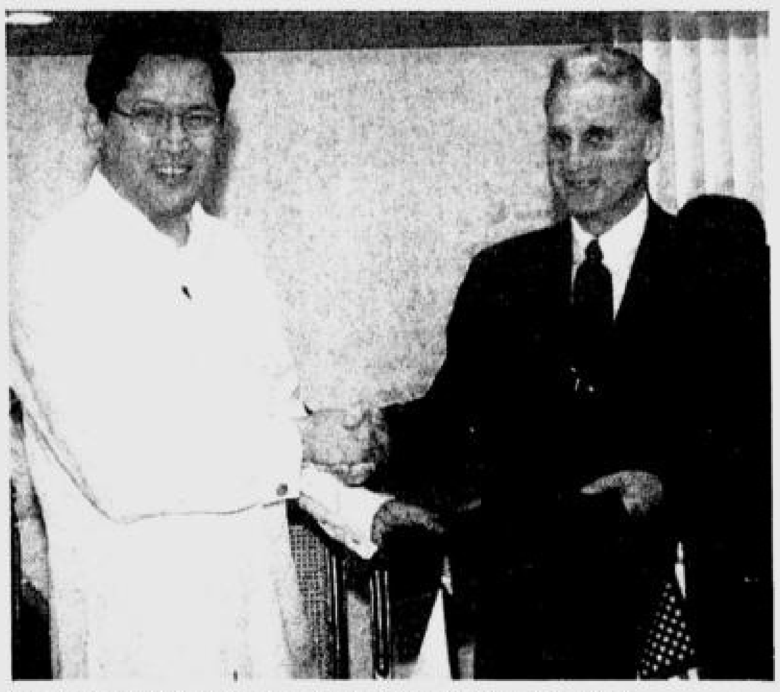
MEDIUM-SIZED commercial bank Asia United Bank (AUB) said it was on track in achieving a 20-percent return on equity this year.

As of May, AUB's net income was already P248.057 million, an annualized ROE of 20.39 percent. Compared to the same period last year, the amount represents a 101-percent increase in net profits.

Executive vice president Manuel A. Gomez attributed the bank's good performance to taking good care of its loan assets and to higher revenues from fixed income investments.

AUB has one of the lowest, if not the lowest, past due ratio among local commercial banks. NPL ratio to total loan portfolio as of May was 6.8 percent versus industry average of 19 percent.

The five-year-old bank has total assets of P12.4 billion and 21 branches.



$20-M LOAN FOR AGRI MODERNIZATION
Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho (left) and US Ambassador Francis J. Ricciardone shake hands after signing on June 28 an agreement for a $20-million loan that will finance the Philippines' purchase of $12 million worth of soybean meal and $8 million worth of rice. Revenue from the resale of the commodities to local industries will finance the Macapagal administration's anti-poverty, food security, and agricultural modernization programs.

GOINGS-ON

Franchising seminar on July 20

GMB Franchise Developers, a pioneer homegrown company that specializes in franchising, will hold Franchising 101, a one-day seminar that will cover an overview and general framework of franchising; worldwide practices; advances in franchising, and franchise presentations.

Franchising 101 will be conducted on July 20, at the Megatrade hall 1 of SM Megamall.

The event will provide local franchisers a venue to showcase their products and services. There will be a special "start-up business area" where potential franchisers will be invited to present their businesses in the exhibit.

Franchise operators who are expected to be in the event are from various enterprises like food, automotive services, beauty, beverage, catering, Christmas decor, laundry, computer, convenience stores, courier or delivery services, gifts, education, fashion, video rentals, vending, water technology, recreation and entertainment.

For inquiries, call 726-8664, or email to convex@mozcom.com.

2nd Henry Ford awards

THE SEARCH for the best in Philippine Automotive journalism begins as Ford Motor Co. Phils. announces the opening of the 2nd Henry Ford Awards.

Initiated last year by Ford, the contest drew out exceptional work from the country's print, broadcast and online automotive journalists.

"The 1st Henry Ford Awards was such a success that Ford had decided to stage the search once again this year to fete the country's brightest motoring journalists," said Maricar Parco, Ford's assistant vice president for marketing and communications.

Seven awards were handed out last year: Best Auto Innovation/Auto Event Story; Best Published Photograph for Newspaper; Best Published Photograph Magazine; Best Online Feature; and Best Automotive Television Feature and the Best Ford Feature Story.

This year, the categories in the Henry Ford Awards have been increased to eight with the Best Auto Innovation Story and the Best Auto Event Story now split into two distinct categories.

The pot has also been sweetened with each of the category winners taking home P25,000 and the special category winner pocketing P35,000 for a total of P235,000 up for grabs.

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Toyota launches Camry

From page B1

reached 140.

De Jesus said this should give TMPC at least 30 to 40 percent of the market and should push the company to the segment's pole position.

De Jesus said TMPC was banking on the Camry's competitive pricing, more powerful engine, trendy styling and wider legroom to gain market share.

The segment is crowded with top European and Japanese brands such as BMW, Volvo, Mitsubishi's Galant, Nissan's Cefiro, and Honda's Accord. "We believe that the latest Camry model would duplicate what the Altis did for us in the compact sedan market," De Jesus said.

In a speech during the launching of the new Camry Monday night, TMPC president Nobuharu Tabata said: "The launch of the Corolla Altis last year was our first big step to recapture leadership in the passenger car market. With the introduction of the all-new Camry, we are taking that extra step to strengthen this leadership."

He said the Camry has been a runaway success in the markets where it was launched—it is ahead of the Ford Taurus and Honda Accord in the United States; it outsells its nearest rival in Taiwan 2 to 1; and it outsells its peers in Thailand better than 2 to 1.

TMPC is currently the triple crown leader in the Philippine automotive industry—No. 1 in passenger car sales, commercial vehicles, and total industry sales. "This is significant for TMPC as this has been our ultimate goal since we last achieved this feat in 1996," Tabata said.

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Albert vs AY

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

ALBERT del Rosario, the Philippine ambassador to the United States, has threatened to quit his Washington post in protest over PLDT's plan to sideline Del Rosario's insurance brokerage business with PLDT in favor of Malayan, the insurance company controlled by a key PLDT shareholder, Ambassador to the United Nations Alfonso Yuchengco.

Del Rosario's five-page memo to top PLDT executives, dated Jan. 28, 2002, gives a rare, detailed account of the "viciousness" of the infighting for the lucrative insurance business of the publicly listed telecom giant, which had long been the preserve of the Yuchengcos until the First Pacific takeover in late 1998 and Del Rosario's firm was appointed PLDT broker.

"I could not believe you are endorsing a recommendation for me to be summarily discarded (as in the offer of a sacrifice) for the purpose of suppressing a threat from (*note: libelous description edited by Cocktales*) of the (*blankety-blank*) kind," Del Rosario said.

"If we are so quick to ally ourselves with (*blankety-blank*), who is protecting all other parties who stand to be unfairly disadvantaged?"

Apparently, to win support of the Yuchengcos during the 1998 takeover, PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan decided to give 2/3 of PLDT's insurance business, whose premiums at the time were estimated to be around P800 million, to Malayan.

Del Rosario, a longtime First Pacific executive like MVP, was appointed direct PLDT broker, through his Gotuaco Del Rosario & Associates (GRA) and Asian Reinsurance Service (ARS).

According to Del Rosario, his firm's first-year appointment saved PLDT P250 million or 70 percent of prior year's premium, a statement confirmed in subsequent PLDT annual reports.

Despite Malayan's finding itself unable to place their reinsurance share, specially after the market completely hardened after the Sept. 11th attacks in the United States, "ARS eventually completed Malayan's share while the latter was credited for full commissions…," Del Rosario said.

But with MVP now fighting with his First Pacific principals over the planned disposition of PLDT, MVP, in an effort to win the support of the Yuchengcos, now plans to give the entire direct and reinsurance business to Malayan as well, thus cutting off Del Rosario.

"Should a decision be made to strip us of the direct broking in favor of the (*blankety-blank*), I will be left with two fundamental choices: To return home immediately and start anew, or to remain in DC and be the miserable recipient of a charitable consultancy fee with your compliments," Del Rosario said.

"With due respect, I see absolutely no future in being a charity case."

MVP's future

AND speaking of MVP, we finally managed to filch a few quotes from the suddenly media-shy PLDT president.

Cocktales dashed off an e-mail query to MVP over the weekend (the communication was made before we obtained a copy of the Albert del Rosario memo), and MVP was gracious enough to return us with a prompt reply.

Here's the unedited (save for opening and closing salutations) exchange:

Cocktales: I think you should consider seeking an elective position, I am serious!, as post-FirstPac, post-PLDT career. You have the charisma, the expertise/training, the stamina, and, most important, the organization and a built-in customer/electoral base, for a Senate seat. And you are certainly eminently more qualified than some of the clowns there!

MVP: *Maraming salamat sa iyong pagtangkilik sa aking* political career! Vic, *bakit naman buhay pa ako eh inililibing mo na ako sa* Chinese cemetery? Keep in touch—"cocktales" with you someday soon for Corporate Governance 101—The Basic Course?"

Incidentally, if you want to catch him in person, MVP will speak today before the Corporate Social Responsibility Conference at Dusit hotel, after President Macapagal-Arroyo's plenary speech.

Media briefing

- MAKATI Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr. is the editor of the English translation of the Xinhua book on taipan Lucio Tan, excerpts of which the INQUIRER Business Monday had just ran.
- PTV-4, the perennial bottom-dweller in primetime ratings, must be doing something right. Its Teledyaryo evening newscast is beginning to show in audience ratings, a turnaround that has not escaped the radar screens of the competition.

Heard through the grapevine

ERSTWHILE partners Severino Lim and Arturo Macapagal have resolved their Toyota dealership row with Macapagal getting the Pasong Tamo dealership and Lim getting sole uncontested control of the Shaw Boulevard showroom.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

NTC evaluating telecom firms

By Abigail L. Ho

THE NATIONAL Telecommunications Commission has started evaluating five carriers for their eligibility to receive their long-term certificates of public convenience and necessity (CPCN).

NTC chief Eliseo Rio Jr. said in an interview yesterday that the regulatory body decided in its en banc meeting yesterday that evaluation should start soon as five local carriers have already "substantially complied with the service area scheme."

These carriers include Globe Telecom Inc., Smart Communications Inc., Pilipino Telephone Corp., Isla Communications Co. Inc. and Digital Telecommunications Philippines Inc.

"But we've just started our evaluation. Nothing's final yet. We just decided that the five carriers have already complied with the SAS and that they should be rewarded with their CPCN," Rio said.

The five carriers, he explained, have completely rolled out the required 700,000 landlines to get licenses to operate a cellular service and an international gateway facility.

Credit Lyonnaise seen helping privatize PNOC exploration unit

By Ronnel W. Domingo

STATE-RUN Philippine National Oil Co. yesterday announced it was in talks with Credit Lyonnaise SA, which it said was a first choice to be the financial adviser on the planned privatization of its exploration arm.

PNOC director Nelson Bayot Sr. said in a telephone interview that Credit Lyonnaise's technical proposal for the privatization of PNOC Exploration Corp. bested those of four other firms.

"We have started talks with Credit Lyonnaise on its financial proposal," Bayot said. "There is no assurance that CLSA will indeed be our adviser."

He explained that if negotiation with the investment house's proposal failed, the privatization committee would turn to the firm that offered the next best technical proposal.

"The financial proposals of the other contending firms have not been opened pending the results of the (talks with Credit Lyonnaise)," Bayot said.

The four other bidders included ABN Amro, ING Barings, SGV Co. and ATR Kim Eng.

Bayot added that once the committee was satisfied with the negotiation, it would present a recommendation on the matter to the PNOC-EC and PNOC boards of directors.

He declined to say when PNOC intended to wrap up the negotiation nor which firm submitted the next best offer.

PNOC-EC chief operating officer Rafael del Pilar said last month the financial adviser would be tasked to draw up a program for PNOC-EC's privatization.

"The program is expected to be ready three months after the contract is awarded," Del Pilar said.

But he added that if the adviser, which is expected to be named this month, failed to make its recommendations by September or October, this would probably be pushed to the first quarter of next year.

The PNOC-EC official said the adviser would consider the options for the state firm's mode of privatization.

"These include seeking a strategic partner and listing in the stock market," he said.

In an earlier interview, Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said PNOC-

CREDIT/ B5

Faith in the Philippines

"We chose the Philippines for our Service Support Centre in the Asia Pacific region"
Andrew Nunemaker
Managing Director, General Electric Medical Systems ANZ-SEA

General Electric selected the Philippines after extensive evaluation of other locations including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and India.

GE Medical Systems' produces and services the latest in medical and diagnostic imaging equipment to hospitals and clinics the world over. Equipment that saves lives, enables correct diagnosis and assists in the treatment process. The service team's role is critical – they take responsibility for the smooth running of this equipment, ensuring safety and efficiency for patients and medical practitioners alike.

To assist the service division, and in turn increase the efficiency and levels of support offered to customers, a Service Support Centre has been established in the Philippines. The centre provides back office processes to support the service division of GE Medical Systems, not only in the Philippines but also extending support to operations in Malaysia, Singapore, Australia and New Zealand. The Service Support Centre supports over 230 staff throughout these countries, with tasks including checking engineer dispatches, involving customers, and providing up to date account and equipment information.

Andrew Nunemaker
Managing Director, GE Medical Systems ANZ-SEA

The Philippines was selected following extensive evaluation of other locations including Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Malaysia and India.

"The selection of the Philippines was based on a strong combination of factors that were unique within the region. What particularly suited us was the availability of a workforce with highly developed English language skills, along with an attractive investment climate with positive scope for expansion," explains Andrew Nunemaker, Managing Director, General Electric Medical Systems ANZ-SEA.

"The Service Support Centre has already made such a positive impact upon GE Medical Systems that we'll be expanding and employing further staff in the next few months," he adds.

GE Medical Systems Asia

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Benpres misses interest payment on ₱2B in IOUs

By Doris C. Dumlao

LOPEZ-CONTROLLED Benpres Holdings Corp. failed to make interest payments on P2 billion worth of long-term commercial papers (LTCPs) that fell due yesterday, a company disclosure said.

This was after the conglomerate failed to meet interest payments for the same LTCPs due last June 17 as well as $150 million worth of Eurobonds due last month.

Benpres said it was supposed to pay yesterday P19.6 million to LTCP holders.

In lieu of the failure to pay such arrears, Benpres said it has made certain proposals to its creditors for certain concessions on interest and principal repayments.

Benpres is seeking to reschedule all of its $596.9 million (P31 billion) worth of debts, sell stakes in "non-core" subsidiaries and pursue further belt-tightening as a three-pronged strategy to restore its financial health. Of the consolidated debts, 86 percent is dollar-denominated while 14 percent is peso-denominated.

The principal payment for the LTCPs is maturing by October next year while the Eurobonds will fall due this December. All in all, the conglomerate is facing $200 million worth of debt maturities this year.

Of Benpres' total debts, Bayan Telecommunications Holdings Corp. accounted for the bulk at $218.9 million, followed by the $165 million owed by Maynilad Water Services Inc. and the $23.9 million borrowed by Manila North Tollway Corp.

Many of the bondholders of Benpres are local banks which are, however, not rushing into declaring the conglomerate in default, concerned that this would bloat the industry's nonperforming loans.

For its part, Benpres plans to aggressively downsize its assets and focus only on flagship units ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp. and First Philippine Holdings Corp. where it owns 57 percent and 47 percent, respectively. The other subsidiaries outside these two are now considered as non-core assets.

New York-based Credit Suisse First Boston was hired last year to act as Benpres' financial adviser on the overall restructuring.

Outside of ABS-CBN and FPHC, the complete list of Benpres interests which are now considered as non-core and up for full or partial divestment are: 24.5 percent in Rockwell Land Corp.; 47.32 percent in Bayantel; 30 percent in First Philippine Infrastructure Development Corp. (which owns tollway operator Manila North Tollways Corp.); 23.07 percent in Sky Vision Corp. (which was consolidated with Home Cable to form Beyond Cable); 10.25 percent in e-commerce unit Bayantrade.com Inc.; 49 percent in computer service firm Corporate Information Solutions Inc., and 25 percent in healthcare unit Professional Services Inc. (which operates Medical City).

ATR Kim-Eng selling Philtread property in Sucat

INVESTMENT bank ATR Kim-Eng Capital Partners Inc. has put on the auction block a 9.7-hectare prime property in Sucat, Parañaque, owned by Philtread Holdings Corp. which will become its backdoor listing vehicle on the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In an interview with the INQUIRER yesterday, ATR Kim Eng Capital president Manuel Tordesillas also said the group was open to any joint venture or lease proposal for the property, which used to be the site of Philtread's tire manufacturing operations.

The property, which is near the Parañaque branch of retailer Pilipinas Makro along South Superhighway, is 60 percent held by Philtread subsidiary Sucat Land Corp. Its book value is estimated at about P500 million or about P5,000 per square meter, he said.

Tordesillas said the group has tapped international property consultant Richard Ellis to evaluate the options available for the prime property.

Cash proceeds from the sale of the Sucat property, Tordesillas noted, would augment funds for ATR Kim Eng's further expansion.

ATR Kim Eng specializes in financial services. It likewise has interests in insurance, money brokerage, pre-need, money remittances and courier businesses.

Tordesillas noted that real estate or property development was not among the company's core businesses.

To date, Philtread is raising its authorized capital to P1.3 billion from P300 million following a rights offering of 500 million shares at P2 each. The major shareholders of ATR Kim-Eng—ATR Holdings and Kim Eng Holdings of Singapore—will subscribe to the rights offering and end up with 70-percent control of Philtread.

The infusion of about P1 billion worth of businesses into Philtread will thus pave the way for the backdoor listing of the entire ATR Kim Eng group.

ATR Kim Eng Capital is the largest non-bank investment house in the Philippines. During the last 18 months, it has completed more than P20 billion worth of investment banking transactions. It was chosen by Finance Asia magazine as the best investment bank in the Philippines in its July issue.

Doris Dumlao

Shares down

From page B1

Investors may have taken their cue from Wall Street's overnight losses and opted to cash in on Monday's gains, said BPI Securities assistant vice president Spencer Yap.

Still, the market managed to offset its losses near the close of the session, ending off its lows as some bargain hunters continued to position themselves in the market.

"Foreign selling wasn't so bad, allowing bargain hunters to continue accumulating oversold issues," Yap said.

"The market's late recovery might signal continued bargain hunting in the next session," Yap said. "But we'll still have to wait and see what happens to Wall Street later today (Tuesday)."

AP

DISCLOSURES

BENPRES Holdings Corp. failed to make interest payments on its long-term commercial paper in the amount of P19.6 billion that was due yesterday.

* * *

LA TONDEÑA Distillers Inc. bought 6,700 of its shares at prices ranging from P32.50 to P33 per share.

* * *

JG Summit Holdings Inc. reiterated that it is the Gokongwei group and not the company that is in talks for a proposed joint venture with **First Pacific Co. Ltd.**

* * *

SAN Miguel Corp. confirmed it was looking to buy a company with at least $1.5 billion in annual revenues but no deal has been closed yet.

* * *

KEPPEL Philippines Marine Inc. bought 1.28 million of its own shares at P0.39 per share.

* * *

NEXTSTAGE Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 8 with record date on July 12 to determine stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **Vitarich Corp.** were Rogelio Sarmiento, Armando Escobar, Ma. Luz Roxas-Lopez, Lydia Enrile, Jose Sarmiento, Ma. Soccoro Gatmaitan, Ma. Victoria Sarmiento, Eligio Labog Jr., Benjamin Sarmiento Jr., Lamberto Villena and Cristina Muñoz.

* * *

HIGHLANDS Prime Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Aug. 22 with record date on July 22 to determine stockholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

APEX Mining Co. Inc. moved its annual stockholders' meeting to July 31, 9 a.m. at the Valle Verde Country Club.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **A. Brown Co. Inc.** were Walter Brown, Victor Juat, Annabelle Brown, Patricia Juat, Guido Alfredo Delgado, Jose Ma. Francisco and Elpidio Paras.

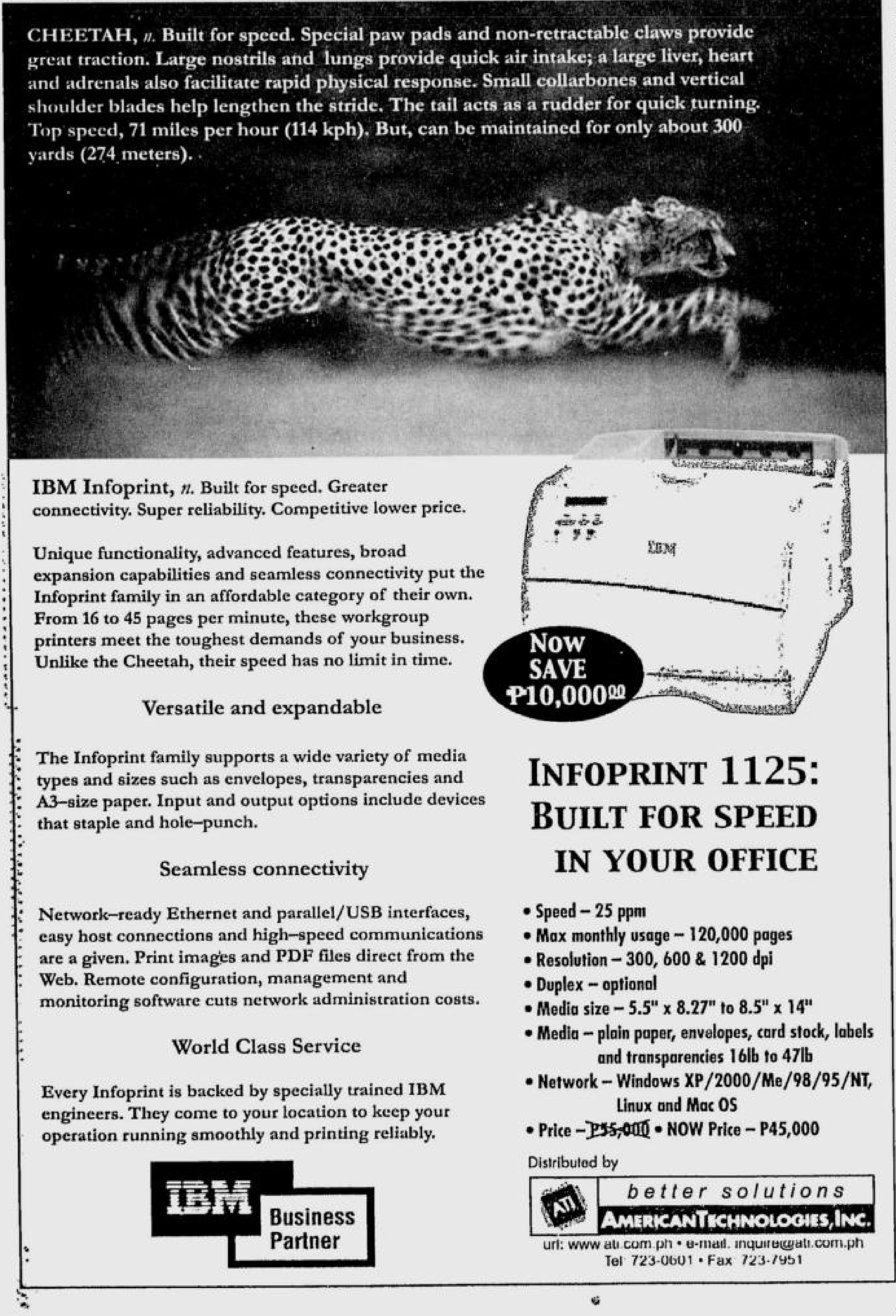
* * *

ELECTED directors of **Jardine Davies Inc.** were Timothy Bennett, Bi Yong Chungunco, Aloysius Colayco, Gil Cortez, Catherine Manahan, James Riley and Geoffrey Thomas.

* * *

CENTRO Escolar University bought 1,000 of its own shares at P8 per share.

Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research



CHEETAH, *n.* Built for speed. Special paw pads and non-retractable claws provide great traction. Large nostrils and lungs provide quick air intake; a large liver, heart and adrenals also facilitate rapid physical response. Small collarbones and vertical shoulder blades help lengthen the stride. The tail acts as a rudder for quick turning. Top speed, 71 miles per hour (114 kph). But, can be maintained for only about 300 yards (274 meters).

IBM Infoprint, *n.* Built for speed. Greater connectivity. Super reliability. Competitive lower price.

Unique functionality, advanced features, broad expansion capabilities and seamless connectivity put the Infoprint family in an affordable category of their own. From 16 to 45 pages per minute, these workgroup printers meet the toughest demands of your business. Unlike the Cheetah, their speed has no limit in time.

Versatile and expandable

The Infoprint family supports a wide variety of media types and sizes such as envelopes, transparencies and A3-size paper. Input and output options include devices that staple and hole-punch.

Seamless connectivity

Network-ready Ethernet and parallel/USB interfaces, easy host connections and high-speed communications are a given. Print images and PDF files direct from the Web. Remote configuration, management and monitoring software cuts network administration costs.

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, July 2, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5	5	5	5	3,000
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.25	18	18.25	33,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49	49.5	629,300
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32.5	32.5	32	32	25,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	34.5	33	34	378,300
Prudential Bank	450	450	450	450	20
Philippine National Bank	34	35	34	35	12,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	10	10	10	10	3,000
Security Bank Corp.	14	14.25	14	14.25	3,600
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.5	20.5	20.5	20.5	3,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	200	200	200	200	180
Manulife Financial Corp.	1380	1380	1380	1380	100
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1070	1070	1070	1070	1,070
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	23	24	23	24	29,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.69	0.69	2,310,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	535	555	525	555	4,320
Piltel	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.35	230,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	10,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	380	380	372.5	375	60,190
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.014	0.014	0.013	0.014	73,100,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	21	21	20.75	20.75	14,700
Manila Electric Co. B	30	31	30	30.5	1,104,200
Petron Corp.	1.74	1.8	1.74	1.8	5,321,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	150,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.91	270,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.4	1,046,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	36,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	200,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	10,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.68	1.68	1.68	1.68	17,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	340,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.34	2.34	2.3	2.3	48,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.25	13.25	13	13	274,900
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	33	33	33	33	19,000
RFM Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	11,000
Swift Food Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.1	10,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48.5	47.5	48.5	34,000
San Miguel Corp. B	53	55	53	54.5	710,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	130,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.3	5.4	5.3	5.3	398,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	12,082,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.58	0.58	0.54	0.54	320,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	5,930,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	2,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.28	465 000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	20.5	21.5	20.5	21.25	44,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	200,000
Ionics Inc.	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	10,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.58	1.58	1.54	1.56	298,000
Jolliville Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.88	20,000
Medco Holdings	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	20,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	1,980,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	150,000
Pryce Corp.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	500,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,180,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.45	860,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.21	0.23	0.21	0.23	150,000
Philippine Racing Club	5	5	5	5	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	23.25	25	23.25	24.75	422,400
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	670	670	670	670	200
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	400
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,200
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	425	425	425	425	10
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.8	5.8	5.6	5.7	8,134,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	100,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	1,400,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.32	2.34	2.32	2.34	4,098,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.19	0.195	0.19	0.195	1,010,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.76	1.76	1.76	1.76	12,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	400,000
SM Development Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.8	6	5.8	5.9	4,263,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	10,000
Benguet Corp. A	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	70,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	200,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	8,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.0038	0.0038	0.0036	0.0036	16,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	8,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	460,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.012	0.012	4,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	0.0028	52,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	2,000,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	3,600,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	4,534,053	111,598,831.25
Comm'l & Ind'l	110,642,420	168,103,855.00
PRO	19,627,000	81,516,730.00
Mining	33,140,000	395,000.00
OIL	61,600,000	239,200.00
GRAND TOTALS :	229,543,473	361,853,616.25

	AVERAGES	
Banks & Fin Svc	474.31	DOWN 2.56
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,644.29	DOWN 2.44
PRO	529.73	DOWN 3.87
Mining	1,219.44	DOWN 27.27
OIL	1.30	UNCH 0.00
All Shares Index	705.19	DOWN 7.38
Composite	1,190.11	DOWN 5.26

NO. OF ADVANCES: 23; NO. OF DECLINES: 37; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 32; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 92; NO. OF TRADES: 1,492

CURRENCIES

July 02, 2002 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.009082	1.000000	50.4260
Japan	Yen	0.008421	0.008345	0.4208
United Kingdom	Pound	1.546519	1.532600	77.2829
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.129371	0.128207	6.4650
Switzerland	Franc	0.680020	0.673900	33.9821
Canada	Dollar	0.665138	0.659152	33.2384
Singapore	Dollar	0.570586	0.565451	28.5134
Australia	Dollar	0.566581	0.561482	28.3133
Bahrain	Dinar	2.676752	2.652661	133.7631
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.269067	0.266645	13.4458
Brunei	Dollar	0.569395	0.564270	28.4539
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000116	0.000115	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.024281	0.024062	1.2134
UAE	Dirham	0.274752	0.272279	13.7299
Korea	Won	0.000841	0.000833	0.0420
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.991000	49.9722
Argentina	Peso	0.267661	0.265252	13.3756
Brazil	Real	0.353815	0.350631	17.6809
Denmark	Kroner	0.134347	0.133138	6.7136
India	Rupee	0.020695	0.020509	1.0342
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.265583	0.263193	13.2718
Mexico	New Peso	0.101314	0.100402	5.0629
New Zealand	Dollar	0.489917	0.485508	24.4822
Norway	Kroner	0.135213	0.133996	6.7569
Pakistan	Rupee	0.016846	0.016694	0.8418
South Africa	Rand	0.100674	0.099768	5.0309
Sweden	Kroner	0.110060	0.109069	5.4999
Syria	Pound	0.019632	0.019455	0.9810
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030239	0.029967	1.5111
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000726	0.000719	0.0363

Asian Spirit

ASIAN SPIRIT FACILITY IN CLARK
Clark Development Corp. president Emmanuel Y. Angeles (second and third from left) and Asian Spirit chair Noel C. Onate signed the agreement for the setting up of a maintenance facility for turbo prop aircraft at the Clark Economic Zone in Pampanga. CDC executive vice president Victor Luciano (extreme left) and Joaquin L. Po, Asian Spirit executive vice president, witnessed the signing.

RP seeks easing of Aussie's pineapple importation rules

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry will seek the relaxation of the pre-conditions, set under the Final Import Risk Analysis made by Biosecurity Australia, for the entry into the Australian market of fresh pineapples.

In a statement, the DTI said it was currently pursuing a "more comprehensive way of addressing the Australian pre-conditions for accepting Philippine pineapples."

One of the options being pursued by the DTI was to ask Australia to consider adopting equally or more stringent measures of other countries where Philippine fruit exports are shipped to without any hitches.

Biosecurity has released the IRA that listed down several conditions for the entry of Philippine pineapples to Australia. These are:

- Pre-export inspection and accreditation by the Australian government of the source plantation and fumigation facilities;
- Scientific proof that the source is pest-free specifically for areas infested with the fusariosis or ruitlet core rot;
- De-crowning of pineapples;
- Fumigation of pineapples with methyl bromide at registered fumigation facilities;
- Compliance with storage, packing and labeling requirements;
- Phytosanitary certification and documentation, and
- On-arrival inspection by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Services.

This policy will be reviewed after the first year of trade with the Philippines.

The DTI said the Philippine farmers were reluctant to some of the pre-conditions specifically the de-crowning of pineapples (which shortens shelf life) and fumigation. The DTI said Australia was willing to consider alternatives to methyl bromide.

The DTI will conduct consultations with the local pineapple industry but it has encouraged exporters to continue looking into the Australian market even under the conditions set by the IRA.

Cotabato eyes rubber supply deal with French tire firm

DAVAO CITY—The province of Cotabato is seeking a deal to supply the rubber requirements of French tire firm Michelin.

Such a deal will call for the doubling of the size of the existing rubber plantations in the province.

Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol Jr. said the provincial government was doubling its marketing efforts to establish ties with Michelin and to become its exclusive tire supplier in the Philippines.

He said Michelin was already buying rubber from a number of processing plants mostly in Makilala town.

Experts from Michelin also helped them processed the rubber according to the standards set by the tire company.

"We still have to know what their requirements are in terms of volume," he said.

Dry rubber is sold at P22 per kilo while the wet variety at P11.

According to Gary Antonio Recimilla, provincial development management officer, the province has about 112,000 hectares of land planted to rubber and that it plans to develop another 200,000 hectares in the next two years or more.

He said that some of the province's rubber plantations were compromised to make way for the planting of oil palm.

Recimilla said that about 400,000 hectares of land in the province were planted to oil palm. *Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RP metal output remains very low

DAVAO CITY—The Philippines is among the top 10 countries with rich deposits of copper and gold but the volume of metal production remains low, a ranking government geologist said.

Rustico Villamor, chief geologist of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau in Southern Mindanao, said in terms of copper deposits, the country ranked fourth. In terms of gold deposits, he added, the Philippines ranked third.

In actual copper production, however, Villamor said the Philippines was nowhere in the list of the world's biggest producers that included Chile, United States, Canada, Australia, Indonesia, Peru, Zambia, Mexico, South Africa, and Papua New Guinea.

He said the main reason for this was the country's lack of funding for mineral exploration and processing.

Villamor, speaking before participants in a recent mining forum here, said that to uplift the country's status in metal production, the government should lure more foreign investors to the mining sector. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

This announcement appears as a matter of record only

1 July 2002

Manila Water

MANILA WATER COMPANY, INC.

US$20,000,000 TEN–YEAR
FLOATING–RATE LOAN

Funds Provided By

DEG

DEUTSCHE INVESTITIONS-UND
ENTWICKLUNGSGESELLSCHAFT MBH

Financial Advisor and Arranger

BPI

BPI Capital Corporation

BSP . . .

From page B1

The bank also has to make sure that any insurance product sold within its premises should not be confused by its clients as a form of deposit substitute so as not to repeat the mistakes made by some lenders.

The BSP had initially objected to the request of banks more than two years ago to cross-sell their products after a number of banks and investment houses collapsed in 2000 as a result of the pre-termination of deposits and placements.

Banks have asked the BSP to be flexible in allowing them to sell non-traditional products as their profits were eroded by the lower interest rates and increasing level of bad loans.

In the United States, for instance, the financial system is moving to a trend called "bancassurance" following the policy allowing the merger of banks and insurance firms.

"This is part of the liberalization and globalization of the local financial services industry. But we will allow cross-selling only under certain safeguards to protect depositors," Buenaventura said.

MWCI obtains $20-M loan from DEG

THE AYALA-led Manila Water Company (MWCI) closed a major component of its planned $130-million financing package by obtaining a fresh $20-million floating-rate loan from the Deutsche Investitions-und Entwicklungsgesellschaft mbH or the German Investment and Development Company (DEG) of Cologne, Germany. A 100-percent owned subsidiary of the KFW Group, one of the largest state banks of Germany, DEG is actively.involved in over 100 countries and is known as a major infrastructure and development financier worldwide. It has supported a number of projects in the Philippines.

Dr. Winfried Polte, DEG CEO and the chair of its board of management, and Klaus Overbeck, senior vice president for new business, flew in to Manila to sign the 10-year loan with Manila Water on July 1 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel. Signing on behalf of Manila Water, company president Antonino Aquino and CFO Sherisa Nuesa announced the loan as MWC's first international loan and DEG's first water project in Asia. Aquino described the loan as the start of a "meaningful and mutually rewarding" banking relationship and expressed confidence that the company will be able to fund its P10-billion capital expenditure program over the next five years.

The $20-million loan provides for a three-year availability period and set new benchmarks in corporate rates at 2.5 percentage points over six-month dollar Libor, at a time when sovereign and some prime corporate spreads are at about 1 to 2 percentage points higher. The company also clinched very favorable terms last November when it closed a seven-year $65-million FCDU loan from a syndicate of local banks led by Banco de Oro. BPI Capital Corp. was tapped as the financial adviser and arranger for both deals.

The MWC officers also cited the support and assistance of the German bank for various infrastructure projects in the Philippines, and thanked DEG for its expression of confidence in one more local company.

The DEG is the first major phase of the remaining $65-million loan package still being put together by the company. It is in active discussion with other international financing financing institutions.

Aside from Ayala Corp. and its affiliate BPI Capital, MWC shareholders include United Utilities of UK, Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan, and International Water Limited.

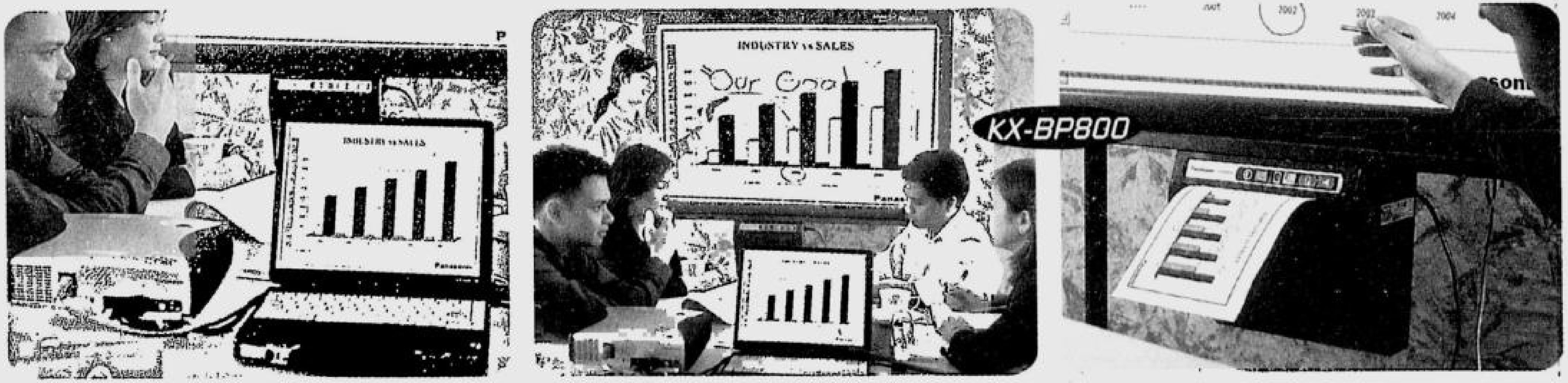
Credit . . .

From page B3

EC was studying whether to reissue its shares on the stock exchange or simply list its stake in the Malampaya gas-to-power project.

Perez, who is concurrent chair of Philippine National Oil Co., said the state firm was considering a reissue of its shares since only 0.2 percent of PNOC-EC shares are in public hands.

"Another option is the public offering of PNOC-EC's share in the Malampaya project," the official said.



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BUSINESS PICKING UP

Consumer spending helping Asia's rebound

HONG KONG—Like countless other Asians, Suchart Jaturapit got an unwelcome fresh start when the Thai baht collapsed in July 1997, bringing on a financial meltdown that demolished currencies and threw regional economies into turmoil.

Suchart lost his job as an engineer with a construction company. He tried selling oil paintings on the Internet. He finally settled on selling grilled chicken from a trolley on the outskirts of Bangkok.

Lately, business has been picking up.

"Food makes much better profits than other products," he said. "Still, things aren't as good as before."

Helped by signs of a US recovery and stronger consumer spending in most regional economies, Asia is bouncing back, though not to levels seen before the crisis.

Lower interest rates and easier access to credit are prompting traditionally frugal Asian consumers—a potential market of almost $2 trillion by some economists' estimates—to open their wallets, helping make up for lower US demand for exports. Commodity prices are rising, and stock markets rallying.

"We've seen stronger consumer spending in many economies. There's been a domestic demand improvement in the region," said Geoffrey Barker, chief regional economist for HSBC Corp. in Hong Kong.

Excluding recession-stricken Japan, Southeast and East Asian economies are expected to manage average economic growth of 4.7 percent this year and 5.6 percent next year, according to the World Bank.

South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore and Taiwan are expected to show the most improvement this year, with Taiwan and Singapore swinging from economic contractions in 2001 to expansions in 2002, according to the Asian Development Bank. Thailand is expected to manage a 2.5-percent growth.

The optimistic outlook is based on expectations of at least a modest US recovery.

"Of course, if we have a double-dip recession in the United States, Asia is not immune to that. We're wide open to trade and manufacturing would turn down again," Barker said. "But we're not as exposed as we were. We do have some domestic motors."

Throughout Asia, reminders of the crisis endure: empty container berths in Hong Kong; malnourished street children in Indonesia; the empty shells of half-built skyscrapers towering over Bangkok, some abandoned with cranes still in place.

The 1997 crisis precipitated a huge and sudden withdrawal of foreign investment that decimated financial systems across the region, exposing fundamental flaws in the Asian "tiger" economies: overvalued currencies, inflated asset prices, banks overburdened by debt and heavy dependence on foreign loans. *AP*

US manufacturing expands for fifth straight month

NEW YORK—US manufacturing grew for a fifth straight month in June as solid demand prompted factories to boost production to the highest level in three years.

Economists said the recovery in factory output could throw a life belt to sinking equities by boosting corporate profits.

"The steepness of June's reading suggests we ought to see sizable improvements in profitability in the second half of the year. This is very much an upbeat reading on the US economic recovery," said John Lonski, chief economist at Moody's Investors Service.

Some hope was desperately needed with the Nasdaq down over 4.0 percent late Monday and set to close beneath the deep lows that followed the attacks on Sept. 11.

The Institute for Supply Management said its monthly manufacturing index rose to 56.2 in June—the fastest pace since February 2000—from 55.7 in May, beating economists' forecasts for a rise to 55.8. *Reuters*

Australian trade deficit widens on firm currency

SYDNEY—Australia posted its seventh consecutive monthly trade deficit on Tuesday as the firmer Australian dollar nibbled away at exports and robust domestic demand continued to suck in imports.

The trade position is also suffering, as the lukewarm global economy cools demand for Australia's raw materials, but the bulk of the blame can be laid at the feet of the firmer Australian dollar and the damage it does to export competitiveness.

The Aussie touched a 22-month high of just under 58 US cents last week. It has firmed around 13 percent since the start of the year and is up 10 cents from last year's all-time low of 47.75.

"Basically, it is a strong economy sucking in imports, and a rising dollar makes imports more attractive," said Michael Blythe, a chief economist at the Commonwealth Bank of Australia. *Reuters*

EXECUTIVES of a real estate company meet with investors in their glassed offices in Beijing. Investors are pouring large amounts of money into expensive developments in Beijing, spurred by the city's successful bid for the 2008 Olympics and the country's entry into the World Trade Organization. Out of the 17.1 million square meters of new housing added to the Beijing market last year, only 1.5 million sq. m. were state-subsidized. AFP

Wenzhou blueprint for China's economic future

WENZHOU, China—Wenzhou is becoming increasingly wealthy through its thriving private sector, a phenomenon that has not escaped the notice of officials elsewhere in China, who are flocking to see how it's all done.

In the center of the southeastern city of 1.3 million people, hordes of clothes boutiques jostle for space alongside upmarket seafood restaurants, while constant construction adds new offices and factories at a rapid pace.

Yet the prosperity which has seen the city in Zhejiang province become China's showcase for economic reform is a recent phenomenon.

Deprived of central investment during the Mao Zedong era because it was close to Taiwan, and thus considered a potential military target, Wenzhou only began any real development at the start of the 1980s.

With the arable land that supports so many millions elsewhere in China scant in the mountainous region, people instead took to producing clothes, shoes, bicycle pumps, small electrical goods and cigarette lighters.

These were produced mainly by home-based private enterprises, which were tolerated by local authorities in Wenzhou.

During the second half of the 1980s, these small-scale workshops, in turn, mutated into fully fledged private companies fuelling a business boom and prompting criticism from Beijing about local people's "capitalist ways."

But private enterprise continued to thrive, and the results speak for themselves.

Today, one in 30 items of the world's clothing is made in the Wenzhou region, while the local shoe industry is worth 25 billion yuan (more than $3 billion) a year and 500 million-plus lighters are manufactured there each year.

WORKERS produce lighters at a factory in Wenzhou. Wenzhou is becoming increasingly wealthy through its thriving private sector, a phenomenon that has not escaped the notice of officials elsewhere in China, who are flocking to see how it's all done. AFP

"In a dozen years, the private economy will represent 94 to 96 percent of local production," said Wu Jian, assistant secretary of Wenzhou's Private Enterprise Association.

The so-called "Wenzhou model" stopped facing criticism following the beginning of economic reforms launched by China's late paramount leader, Deng Xiaoping, in 1992.

Now, on the contrary, the town receives delegations from all over China wanting to study the workings of its private sector.

Last year, Wu's association welcomed more than 100 such visits, mainly from poor and economically troubled regions to the west and north of the country.

However, these areas lack what many see as Wenzhou's key advantage in development—the phenomenal number of former inhabitants who live abroad, many of whom invest in their former home region.

An estimated million and a half Wenzhou region natives have gone overseas whether legally or illegally, the vast majority to Europe, especially France and Italy.

This ability of Wenzhou to count on its own for investment—while other boom towns such as Guangzhou and Shanghai rely predominantly on money from foreigners or people elsewhere in China—has attracted both envy and interest from other regions. *AFP*

Forex seen as near-term risk for Japan

TOKYO—Japanese Economics Minister Heizo Takenaka said Tuesday that foreign exchange movements were a near-term risk for Japan's economy, and that the yen might be overvalued.

Asked about the impact of a stronger yen on capital spending, Takenaka told a news conference, "We are closely watching whether corporate profits will recover, especially as they are expected to rise in the second half of the current fiscal year."

He added that the Bank of Japan's June "tankan" corporate sentiment survey underscored the government's view that the economy had bottomed out. *Reuters*

Washington sets up Internet site on overspending

WASHINGTON—The White House on Monday unveiled a new tool for fighting government bloat—a World Wide Web link called "The Wastebasket" that allows taxpayers to submit examples of wasteful government bureaucracy.

The site is part of the White House's Office of Management and Budget's revamped website, at www.omb.gov or www.whitehouse.gov/omb.

The new site, which went live early Monday evening, is meant to be easier to navigate.

"Americans deserve better information about how their tax dollars are being spent, or misspent, and the government can benefit from the citizen feedback and ideas for greater efficiency that this new site makes possible," OMB director Mitch Daniels said in a statement announcing the recreated site. *Reuters*

Singaporeans gamble $284M on World Cup

SINGAPORE—Singaporeans gambled about S$500 million (US$284 million) in a World Cup betting spree, more than double the expected amount, according to a report Tuesday.

The unsourced figure quoted in the Straits Times referred only to money paid to Singapore Pools, the sole legal gambling outlet in the city-state, while many people dealt with illegal bookmakers in Malaysia and Hong Kong. *AFP*

PHOTO dated Aug. 22, 2001 shows Cathay Pacific pilots leaving a meeting where they voted comprehensively in favor of stepping up their industrial action in Hong Kong. A group of Cathay Pacific pilots who were fired last year lodged formal complaints against the Hong Kong-based airline with the labor tribunal. AFP

Casino culture haunts Thailand's bourse

BANGKOK—US investment guru Warren Buffett once said that if you aren't willing to own a stock for 10 years, don't even think about owning it for 10 minutes.

It is not a message heeded by many Thai investors, for whom even 10 minutes is often too long.

With the World Cup over, Thailand's hardcore gamblers now have to find something else to bet on—and many will choose the country's volatile stock market.

Of all the region's bourses, Thailand's is among the most heavily influenced by speculators who see buying a stock as just a short-term gamble like betting on a soccer match.

The danger, analysts say, is that short-term speculative trading overwhelms rational investment based on fundamentals, sparking excessive volatility, undermining corporate governance and broker research, and scaring long-term investors away.

Many industry professionals are calling for action to broaden the investor base and make the market less speculative.

"We want to lower the ratio of short-term investors from the current 80 percent to maybe 50 percent," said Kongkiat Opaswongkarn, president of Asset Plus Securities.

"A lot of punters are still looking for short-term profit. What worries me is that there is a concentration of trade in selected overvalued stocks, with huge price-earning ratios. Certainly it's not healthy for the market in the long term."

Thailand is unusual among developing stock markets in allowing net settlement, which enables investors to buy and sell a stock on the same day and pay only the difference between the purchase and sale price. It allows short-term investors to be highly leveraged and make large stock plays with minimal funds.

The share of net settlement trades in total volume has been rising, reaching 35 percent of trade in 2001.

Analysts say there are several concerns. Some cite John Maynard Keynes, one of the fathers of modern economics, who warned decades ago about the dangers of speculative bubbles.

"Speculators may do no harm as bubbles on a steady stream of enterprises," he wrote. "But the position is serious when enterprise becomes the bubble on a whirlpool of speculation. When the capital development of a country becomes a by-product of the activities of a casino, the job is likely to be ill-done."

Thailand's stock market has until now played a secondary role in assisting economic growth—the boom of the 1990s was built on debt, not equity. But with many banks now reluctant to lend, an efficient stock market has become more important.

Besides the macroeconomic implications, a highly speculative stock market is also damaging to the way executives run their companies, analysts say.

"Shares are bought and sold for reasons that have little to do with a company's soundness or governance, and so in immature markets managers are less likely to see movements in stock prices that reflect shifts in their governance," said Michael Backman, whose book "Asian Eclipse" details the perils of Asian markets. *Reuters*

GG & A Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of July 3, 2002

CLUB	BUYER	SELLER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,500,000	1,650,000
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	-	2,000,000
Baguio Country Club	700,000	740,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	75,000	95,000
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	-	110,000
Camp John Hay	240,000	290,000
Canlubang	500,000	600,000
Canyonwoods	Please Call	200,000
Capitol Hills	-	125,000
Celebrity Sports Club	-	180,000
Eagle Ridge "A"/"B"/"C"	Please Call	Please Call
Eastridge "A"	-	200,000
Evercrest "A"	-	100,000
Forest Hills "A"	200,000	220,000
Forest Hills "B"	230,000	250,000
Forest Hills "C"	250,000	260,000
Makati Sports Club "A"	250,000	280,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	Please Call	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	-	14,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	Please Call	14,000,000
Manila Polo	2,750,000	2,850,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	Please Call	650,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	730,000	Please Call
Metropolitan Club "A"	-	120,000
Montemar (Individual)	30,000	40,000
Montemar (Corp)	50,000	-
Mt. Malarayat (Corporate)	-	550,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	200,000	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "B"	-	250,000
Orchard Golf Club "C"	-	Please Call
Pueblo de Oro "A"/"B"/"C"	-	Please Call
Puerto Azul	-	125,000
Quezon City Sports Club	200,000	220,000
Riviera Golf & Country Club "A"	-	Please Call
Rockwell	350,000	450,000
Sherwood Hills "A"	-	100,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,625,000	1,850,000
Sta. Elena "B"	-	2,100,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	-	280,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	-	170,000
Tagaytay Country Club	400,000	450,000
Tagaytay Highlands	800,000	875,000
Tagaytay Midlands	800,000	-
The Country Club	Please Call	Please Call
Valle Verde (Individual)	-	170,000
Valley Golf	250,000	-
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,800,000	7,500,000

PLAYING RIGHTS (Available Lessors)

Alabang "A"	25,000	Mimosa Golf	25,000
Calatagan "A"	10,000	Orchard "A"	30,000
Canlubang	60,000	Riviera "A"	15,000
Eagleridge	15,000	Sta. Elena	60,000
Eastridge "A"	20,000	Tagaytay CC	20,000
Forest Hills	30,000	Tagaytay Golf	45,000
Manila Southwoods	20,000	Tagaytay Mid.	35,000
Makati Sports "A"	25,000	Valley Golf	20,000
Manila Golf	300,000	Wack-Wack	90,000

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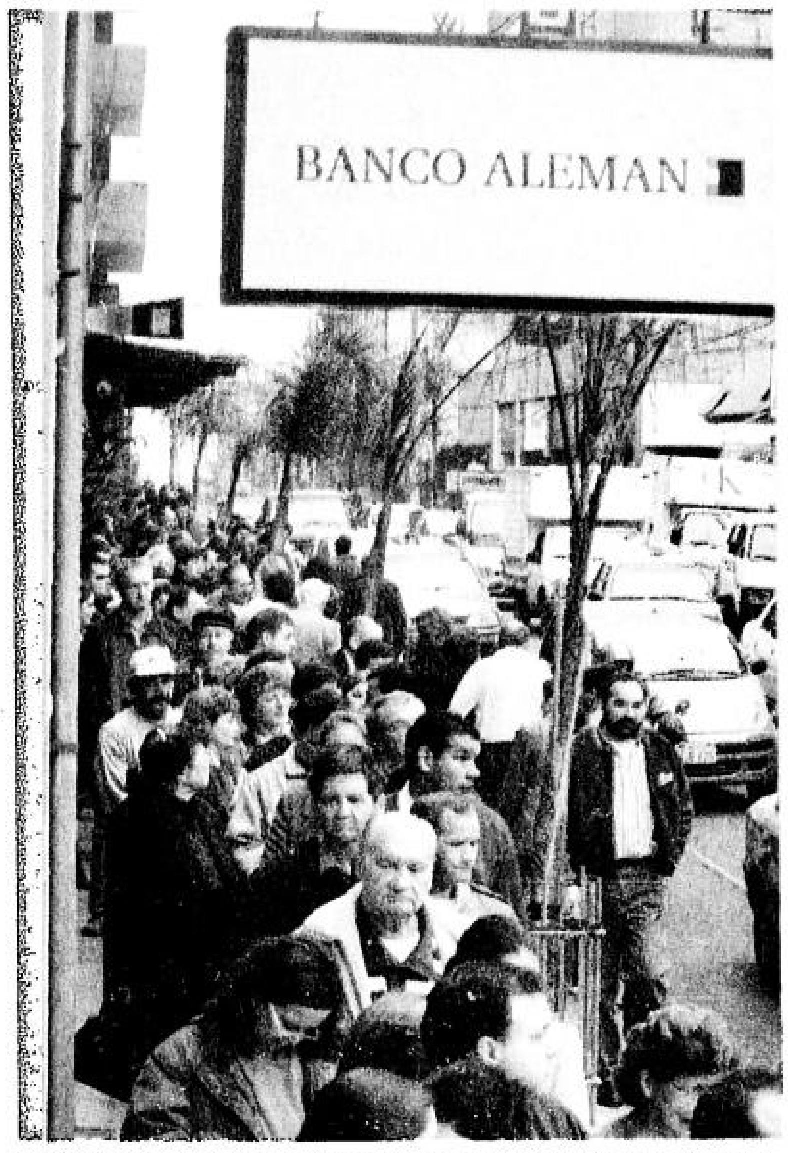


PARAGUAYIANS wait in line outside Banco Aleman in Asuncion, Paraguay, waiting to get up to 90,000,000 guaranies in minimum wages, 75 base wages, (approximately $6.30), which is all they are allowed to recover from their deposits. A judge in Asuncion produced an international capture order for the main Bank Velox shareholders, Uruguayan brothers Juan and Jose Peirano, who are also owners of Banco Aleman. AFP

Factories revving up worldwide

NEW YORK—Manufacturing around the globe is picking up speed after a long slump but is not yet firing on all cylinders as companies face vigorous competition for export markets, reports released on Monday showed.

US industry grew for a fifth straight month in June, as solid demand prompted factories to boost production to the highest level in three years, the Institute of Supply Management said, providing more evidence that the hard-hit factory sector's rebound was gaining momentum.

Meanwhile, euro zone manufacturers reported factory output grew a little faster in June, and Japanese companies recorded their biggest bounce in confidence on record, cheered by growing exports.

American manufacturers also saw demand from abroad accelerate in June, in part from a roughly 10-percent drop in the value of the dollar against other major currencies that made US goods more attractive to foreign customers.

"The world trade cycle is still on the up, while the recent decline in the dollar is providing some benefit too," said Ian Morris, chief US economist at HSBC Securities. "It's tough to argue there's anything wrong with manufacturing."

ISM said its monthly manufacturing index rose to 56.2 in June—the fastest pace since February 2000—from 55.7 in May and beating forecasts for a rise to 55.8. Any reading above 50 suggests growth in the sector that makes up about one-sixth of the economy.

One example of the recent pickup came from diversified manufacturer 3M Co., which said on Monday its second-quarter earnings would be higher than Wall Street had expected due to higher sales volumes, primarily in the Asia-Pacific region.

But Norbert Ore, chair of ISM's manufacturing survey committee, cautioned that manufacturing was not likely to accelerate much further and that employment and capital spending still remained weak.

"Production and new orders have driven the PMI to this point. They can't continue to sustain those kinds of high levels," Ore said. "One would suspect we're at or near a peak."

The Reuters Eurozone Purchasing Managers' Index showed modest growth in the sector for the third month running after a year-long recession, rising to 51.8 in June from 51.5 in May.

The survey of 2,500 companies also showed the manufacturing sector in Germany, the region's dominant economy, growing for the first time since March 2001, albeit modestly. German export orders grew at their fastest pace since December 2000, in part from increased US demand, the survey said.

"The upturn is robust and gaining steam," said Volker Nitsch at Bankgesellschaft Berlin.

However, the companion survey for Britain recorded the weakest overall activity reading since February and showed the sector barely growing at all. *Reuters*

Hopes fade for Singapore tech recovery in second half

SINGAPORE—Hopes of an earnings recovery by most Singapore technology companies in the second half of 2002 have all but evaporated, with their share prices tumbling more than 30 percent in the last three months.

The high-tech slowdown that hit firms in the sector is also hurting the city state itself, as it emerges from recession still burdened by weakness in technology exports that account for some 60 percent of overall non-oil trade.

"Tech share prices are telling you that market expectations are low and people expect seasonality in the second half to be weak," said Arthur Chai, an analyst at Morley Fund Management, which is underweight in the tech sector.

Tay Kim Song, a fund manager with DBS Asset Management, has been underweight in tech stocks in April to June and expects to remain so in the September quarter.

"Tech spending in 2002 has been a wash-out," he said. "We will have to look now to 2003 for a recovery."

In line with a stream of profit warnings from the world's largest chipmaker, Intel Corp., No. 2 software firm Oracle Corp. and US computer maker Apple Computer Corp., local tech suppliers are not likely to see strong earnings momentum until mid-2003 at the earliest, analysts said.

"We should see a slight pick-up in the third or fourth quarter, primarily due to seasonal factors," said ING Baring Securities analyst Lim Tee Wee. "But apart from seasonal demand, no other demand is coming in from corporate spending this year."

Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing and sister company ST Assembly Test Services are expected to remain in the red for a second consecutive year, as the downturn in global demand continues to bite.

According to Multex Global Estimates, Chartered is forecast to post a consensus net loss of US$385.2 million this year. The world's third largest microchip contract maker had a loss of US$384 million in 2001.

ST Assembly, Asia's largest chip tester, is seen reporting a consensus net loss of US$85.9 million this year, down from a loss of US$134 million last year.

The continued bleeding and recent change in chief executives at both firms have stoked speculation that majority shareholder and government investment vehicle Temasek Holdings could cut its losses and sell out. A Temasek spokespeson declined to comment. *Reuters*

Northrop Grumman buying defense firm TRW for $7.8B

NEW YORK—US defense giant Northrop Grumman Corp. on Monday agreed to buy defense and auto parts group TRW Inc. for $7.8 billion, creating one of the world's largest military and satellite contractors.

The deal, which ends a four-month standoff between the companies, catapults Northrop into the top ranks of the global defense industry at a time when the US government and its allies are sharply increasing military spending following the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States.

It also marked a significant payoff for TRW, which resisted earlier lower takeover offers from Northrop and ultimately won a much richer price. TRW had said it planned to sell off the company in parts, sparking bids from other defense contractors and driving up Northrop's offer.

"With the significant programs wins Northrop Grumman has achieved in the last year, plus the significant growth expected in space and missile defense, plus homeland security, the outlook for this company is very bright indeed," said Kent Kresa, Northrop's chair and chief executive.

US regulators were not expected to block the deal, defense and antitrust experts said on Monday, echoing sentiments expressed by Kresa. US antitrust officials were likely to applaud the emergence of another competitor for space-based work and other big defense contracts, industry sources said.

The deal was one of the largest in the defense field since the industry consolidated in the 1990s. It would significantly strengthen Northrop's position in satellite communications and missile systems, giving it the firepower to challenge Boeing Co., Lockheed Martin Corp. and Britain's BAE Systems Plc in bidding for big defense contracts.

In many respects, the timing of the deal could not be better. President Bush has submitted a $379-billion defense budget to Congress for fiscal 2003, a $48-billion increase and the largest since President Ronald Reagan was in the White House. *Reuters*

Singaporeans are seeing red over series of price hikes

SINGAPORE—Singaporeans, accustomed to living a relatively comfortable life, are up in arms over a spate of price rises to essential services that have hit at a time of wage cuts, retrenchments and recession.

Newspapers have been swamped with letters over the past month complaining about the need for the increases, which range from electricity charges to public transport, and demanding an explanation from the government.

The outcry over the rising cost of living has shown no sign of abating.

The response from the government has not been to put increases on hold but to warn that fallout from a weakening US dollar may stifle Singapore's recovery from recession.

"The possibility that the Singapore economy may not recover as fast or as substantially as we had expected at the beginning of the year is there," Deputy Prime Minister Tony Tan told reporters early this week.

His frankness is unlikely to appease Singaporeans watching their spending power being eroded.

"While the unions, the prime minister and every government official have called repeatedly for moderation, wage restraint and belt-tightening. Why then are bus drivers' wages going up?" demanded Chiam Yih Wei in a letter to the Straits Times.

An irate Daniel Ang wrote: "Most of us remain unconvinced that bus and train operations will become financially unviable without these fare hikes."

Peter Teo was blunt: "They should not simply raise prices."

As Singapore attempts to ride out the economic downturn with the least amount of pain, the National Trade Union Congress has urged companies to implement wage cuts or wage freezes to curb retrenchments.

COMMUTERS purchase tickets at vending machines of Singapore's mass rapit transit. Singaporeans, accustomed to living a relatively comfortable life are up in arms over a spate of price rise of essential services at a time when wages are being cut and jobs are being lost. AFP

Even then, the union umbrella body has forecast another 20,000 workers being laid off this year in addition to the 16,000 retrenched in the second half of last year.

The government sees unemployment rising from 4.4 percent to more than 5.5 percent.

Pricing watchdog, the Consumers Association of Singapore, has called for more transparency with price increases. *AFP*

Motorola achieves latest broadband industry milestone

NEW ORLEANS—Motorola Inc.'s Broadband Communications Sector has achieved a major industry milestone by becoming the first and only supplier to ship 20 million digital set-top terminals.

To commemorate this landmark shipment, Motorola Broadband president Dave Robinson, along with Carl McGrath, corporate vice president and general manager of the digital consumer gateways business, presented Michael Willner, chair of the National Cable and Telecommunications Association (NCTA), with a trophy and a special-edition silver Motorola DCT2000 digital set-top.

The NCTA is the cable and telecommunications industry's most prestigious convention.

Willner was selected to receive the commemorative award in recognition of his contributions to the broadband-cable industry in his role as chair of the NCTA while also leading Insight Communications, one of the United States' leading cable operators and providers of interactive digital technology.

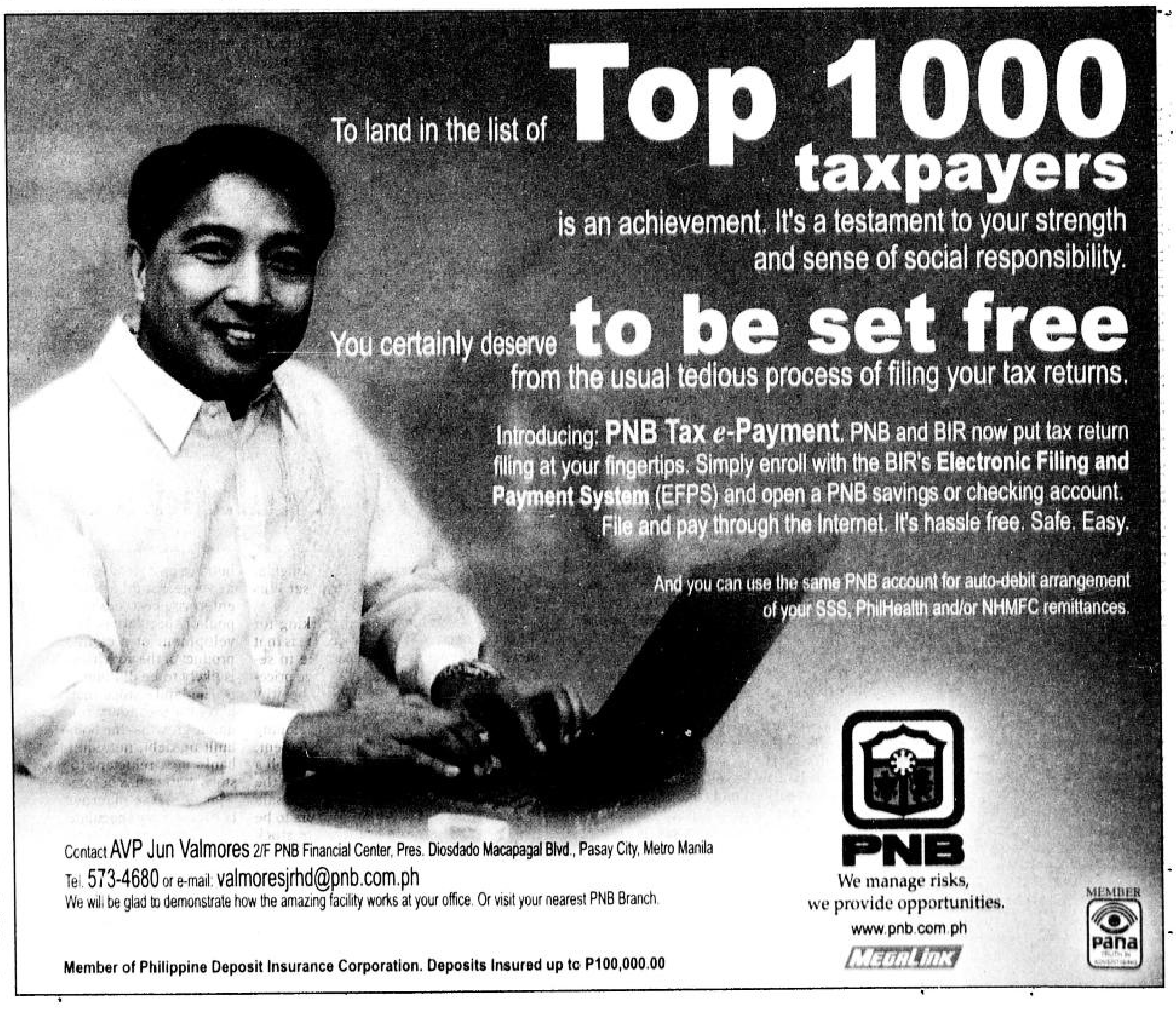
"As a leader of both the NCTA and Insight, Michael Willner has used his vision and energy to spur tremendous growth in the broadband industry," Robinson said.

"As a valued customer of Motorola, Insight shares our commitment in providing broadband solutions that enhance the way people stay entertained, informed and connected in their homes. We are pleased to present Michael Willner, one of cable's great pioneers, with this commemorative award celebrating Motorola's 20 millionth set-top shipment," he added.

This is the latest of many milestones reached by Motorola Broadband.

The company was first to propose HDTV transition to the Federal Communications Commission in 1990. It was also the first to ship a million interactive digital set-tops.

The company is highly concentrated in Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio.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People, Events & Products

Benchmarking: making a mark in social development

BELIEVING that business has one purpose--to make life good for all. This is the principle by which Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) operates--the central reason for it being the forerunner in finding innovative approaches in engaging the business sector to nation building.

In hindsight, it was perceived to be a "divine conspiracy" when the country's top business leaders converged in 1970 to respond to the social unrest through the establishment of PBSP. There was not even a single indication that it would be the seed of what is now called Corporate Citizenship (CC).

Two decades after, companies realized that Corporate Citizenship makes good business sense. The business sector became conscious of the fact that engaging in social development gave them a competitive edge. Thus, from mere doleouts, CC evolved into a strategic component in the business framework.

Corporate Citizenship suggests that more meaning to business is achieved when its profitability and growth are attained alongside worthwhile causes in social development that focuses on community development, environmental protection, and improvement in the quality of life. Alternatively called Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), companies take it upon themselves to make lasting contributions to social change, thus helping achieve overall socioeconomic growth in the country.

Identifying priority focal areas such as social investment, corporate-community partnership, environmental stewardship and workplace concerns management, PBSP taps its strength in building and popularizing leading-edge models in Corporate Citizenship. PBSP's Benchmarking Corporate Citizenship Program is an innovative attempt to provide the business sector with frameworks and tools to be used for guidance in the practice and assessment of CC. It is a four-year undertaking that aims to develop a program management systems framework to guide companies in designing CC programs and a set of indicators to help companies measure the impact of their CC practices.

By Benchmarking their CC practice, business leaders are aided to become visionary social entrepreneurs, thereby ensuring that their respective companies' Corporate Citizenship practices are adequate, sustained and relevant to their business direction.

At present, PBSP's Center for Corporate Citizenship (CCC), in partnership with the League of Corporate Foundations and with funding support from The Ford Foundation (Philippines), has developed two Benchmarking Tools -- the first of its kind in Asia. The first one, the Corporate Citizenship System and Process Assessment Tool, is a self-assessment mechanism that aims to measure a company's internal processes against a set of systems and standards or indicators in developing and implementing a strategic and effective Corporate Citizenship program. Alongside this tool is the second measuring mechanism -- the Impact Measurement and Assessment Tool. It provides indicators and a framework that will help determine whether an existing CC initiative generates goodwill for the company while making an impact on the country's economic and social bottom lines. Having developed such tools for the appreciation of the business sector's involvement in social development, it is expected that participation in such efforts will inevitably improve.

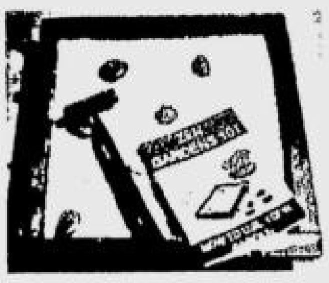
Product FILES

Antidote to stress

IT'S A stressful world. You work extra hours to add extra pesos to your account, hoping it would make your life more comfortable. In time, you get the most coveted promotion, buy your dream car, and travel luxuriously. But somehow, life becomes more complicated. Longer working hours, and larger bills to pay. The cycle of stress continues.

Refresh yourself with the beauty of simplicity. Reduce your anxieties. Disarm yourself through a Zen Garden. The Zen Garden, which originated from the Japanese, promotes better health, well being, and longevity. It is known as an instrument of meditation and relaxation.

A Zen Garden encourages you to release your inner feelings through creating different designs and patterns in the sand, together with the rocks. A Zen Garden will let your mind float and still your nerves, imparting a spirit of tranquility.



A Zen Garden is the perfect gift for the busy professional. For orders or inquiries, call Jean Reyes of Zeppelin Designs at 807 2971 or 0919-5545929.

BITS & Clips

1st sem basic photo course

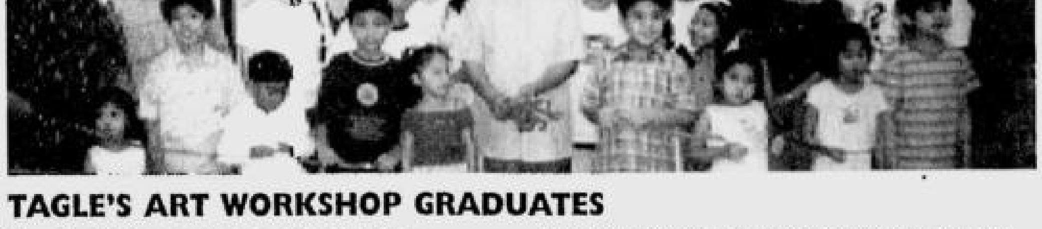
PHOTOGRAPHY enthusiasts and students can take the basic photo course organized by the Federation of Philippine Photographers Foundation Inc (FPPFI) to start on July 7 at the Yslas Restaurante, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. Sponsors are YKL Dev. and Trading Corp. and the Intramuros Administration. The basic workshop is for those just starting to learn photography. Afterwards, students can take the advanced workshop. The workshop will be conducted by seasoned lecturers Vic Sison, past chair of Photoworld Manila and artist photographer professor Cecilia Angeles, and commercial photographers Ador Pamintuan and Tony Raval. Visit FPPF at the the 7th floor of Comfoods Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, or call Beverly Estrosas or Boy Capala at 813-7420 or 843-5341. E-mail ppfpwm@pacific.net.ph.

CKSC Class '77 reunion

THE CHIANG Kai Shek College Class '77 Alumni Association welcomes all batch mates and their families joining the grand celebration of its Silver Jubilee Homecoming on July 6, Saturday, 4 p.m. at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel Grand Ballroom. A Thanksgiving Mass will be held on July 7, Sunday, 10 a.m. at the CKSC Gym followed by a "Palaro 2002". The Silver Anniversary comes just once in a lifetime. Don't miss this opportunity to join and be part of this memorable occasion. Interested parties can call Cathy at 253-0808, 253-0909, or Lourdes at 241-0840 or 241-0950.

Corporate Giveaways opens at WTC

PASAY City mayor Peewee Trinidad and Philippine Association of National Advertisers president Carmencita Rodriguez will lead government and business leaders in opening international product exhibition Corporate Giveaways 2002 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila 10:30 a.m. today, July 3. Trinidad and Rodriguez will kick off the four-day event with ribbon-cutting rites that will unveil 120 booths of world-class business gifts, promotional products and merchandise incentives. These gift items will be offered at attractive discounts. Makers of the most innovative promo products will receive the Excellence Awards. Likewise, exhibitors, that have been with Corporate Giveaways for 10 years will receive Loyalty Awards from Worldexco, the event organizer. There are also free seminars from July 4 to July 6. Corporate Giveaways is now on its 14th year.



TAGLE'S ART WORKSHOP GRADUATES

The Positivism summer art workshop conducted at the Roozen Hall of St. John Bosco Parish in Makati City holds its graduation exhibit with Fr. Gerry Battad (center) cutting the ceremonial ribbon recently. Over 60 participants exhibited their best works which raised funds for the street children of Don Bosco who had been attending free art workshops conducted by positivism exponent and painter ER Tagle (left). Those interested in learning basic and advanced drawings and paintings may enroll at the Gallery, Enterprise Plaza, 1429 Pablo Ocampo Avenue (Vito Cruz Extension), Makati City. For inquiries, call 899 6358 or 0917 9726223

email: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◎ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

How do you manage multiple bosses?

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I report to three different people. Where can I get some info on coping with too many bosses?

Drowning In Bosses

Speaking of drowning...I've just started working out at the pool. I'd gone only a couple of times and quickly become attached to the early morning mellow music selections of the water aerobics class. So you can imagine my surprise when I walked in one morning only to be greeted by the blare of "Saturday Night Fever." I turned to the lifeguard (who is about as far from the Bee Gees as you can get), expecting to see him steaming. But to my surprise Eric seemed content. "Hey, I chose this morning's music" he explained, "The other option was Sousa!"

Well, just as the lifeguard had to choose between the lesser of two evils, that's what you often have to do when you're drowning in bosses. Here are some tips for staying afloat. You'll find more advice in Pat Nickerson's book, "Managing Multiple Bosses" (Amacom, 1998).

1. Can you prioritize your work? You can't just do what's urgent-you have to do what's important. That means you have to constantly evaluate your projects: Which has greatest overall importance to your company? Which can survive a delay? Which boss has the most clout? There are rarely easy answers. Just be ruthless in your analysis, then schedule your time accordingly.

2. Can you refuse assignments that will sink you? It's better to suggest that someone else take on project than to find yourself over your head. So, hard as it is, evaluate before you say yes. Estimate (conservatively!) how long it will take you to do it. Offer your appraisal of the project's pros and cons. And, if necessary, challenge the assignment before you agree to do it.

3. Can you get time with each boss? My trick for getting quality time with bosses is to hitch car rides to meetings with them. That gives us time to check in while keeping interruptions to a minimum. If you can't get time with a particular boss, find someone in her office who knows where she's headed and can help keep you in the same lane.

4. Can you learn to enjoy constantly changing strokes? It would be nice to swim a whole lap with a single stroke, but when you've got several bosses, you don't often get to do that. Instead you get pulled from one project to the next just when you've found your groove. That's why Ms Nickerson points out it's important to learn to get your kicks not from finishing projects, but from the exercises themselves.

5. Can you stop trying to please everyone? Heck, it's tough enough trying to please one boss. You're swimming upstream if you think you can please a pool-full. So get in the habit of setting your own standards--and then giving yourself a "gold" when you achieve them.

Follow these tips and hopefully you'll have a lot less trouble "staying alive" at work.

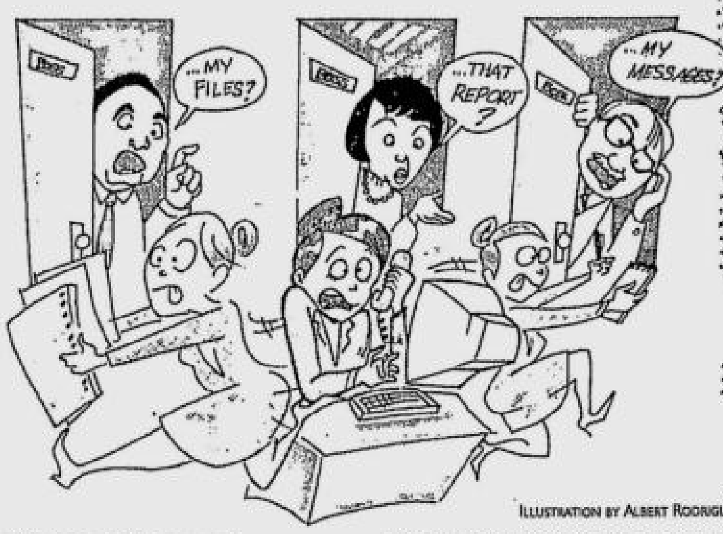

BOSS
...MY FILES?
BOSS
...THAT REPORT?
BOSS
...MY MESSAGES?

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Here are the results of our last workingwounded.com/ABC-news.com poll: If you had multiple projects from multiple bosses, which project would you work on first?

-The one I enjoy working on the most, 8.9 percent

-The one favored by the most powerful boss, 37.7 percent

-The one most important to the company, 53.3 percent

Our winning strategy for dealing with multiple bosses comes from Johnnie W. in cyberspace. "A former boss once gave me this tip. 'Always reason from the familiar to the unfamiliar.' Discuss what was covered during the last briefing with the Boss and the actions you agreed on before you provide any new information. The Bosses are also drowning in multiple projects and often do not clearly recall your last conversation and agreements. I have found this approach can save hours and days of rework and confusion."

(Send feedback to bob@workingwounded.com)

People at Work goes on air on DZRH

PEOPLE at Work can now be heard on radio!

Starting today, People at Work will be heard over DZRH 66.6 AM from 3 to 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday as a segment of the highly rated "Operation Tulong." Hosted by Ruth Abao "Pangga" Espinosa and Regina "Reggie" Galang-Reyes, People at Work editor, the radio program aims to assist people looking for work and people at work in their career goals.

The segment will feature job announcements, job-hunting tips, and opinions and advice on problems at work. "People at Work on Air" will also feature successful *Pinoys* with its "Ang Galing ng Pinoy!" portion.

The guest resource person for today is Attorney Bernardo Salas, chair of the Legal Committtee of the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas (KBP).

RUTH Abao-Espinosa

Who are our role models for leadership, followership?

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos-Aquino

THE *KALESA* driver proudly showed off historical places to us and recounted historical tidbits with confidence. He also brought us to the *banga* factories and the public market with equal enthusiasm.

People in the streets and stores quietly went about their business. There was no fussing over visitors like us, but they were friendly nonetheless. I heard no loud music, loud voices nor saw loud colors. The houses and other structures look like the ones described in Noli and Fili and exactly as you saw them in Tom Cruise's movie, Fourth of July.

Vigan pleasures

The *empanada* cooked and sold in stalls along the street by the main church was delicious and filling. The Vigan Cathedral exudes the simple no nonsense faith of the parishioners. Unfortunately, we could not understand the mass said in Ilocano. *Pero* feel *mo*.

The whole of Vigan City gives you a relaxing view and feeling. You shouldn't live your life without seeing and enjoying Vigan. It is a city unlike others. It is one place where you would feel safe and happy walking the streets anytime of the day and night. It might as well be my comfort city and the *empanada*, my other comfort food.

Birthday

It is one memorable birthday I celebrated in three places last weekend: Manila, Bauang in La Union and Vigan City with dinner stop in Candor City. Thanks to my friends Rene, Aileen and RB Mayol; Carla, Gino and Dana Sison plus Yaya Emy; and Phil Lu and the staff of Bauang Power Plant where we stayed at their Guest House. We planted 20 mahogany and 15 langka trees in Baranggay Bucayab, Bauang, with Christine Mapanao, Flor Zarate, Allan Gomez, Bgy. Captain Rizalino Fa Minialagao and other baranggay officials. In four years time they can eat yummy langka fruits and in four years, the mahogany trees will be big enough to give shade and fruits. This is one birthday I shall take comfort in remembering.

Our country is very beautiful and has lots of natural resources and graces for all of us to share. The more I travel in different parts of the world, the more I appreciate the Philippines. The problem is our lack of appreciation of ourselves, our low self-esteem and our lack of leadership and followership competence. We know how to manage and to get by, but we are lacking in initiative, in sustaining and innovating and in follow through.

If there is one subject matter that should be included, even from the kindergarten level, it is leadership and followership. Pardon the generalization for purposes of emphasis. We are compliant, subservient and obedient, but not necessarily good followers. Our style of leadership does not inspire, albeit calls for submission. We are bossy, we expect to be served. We love the underdog, we love to be the underdog.

Role models

Our leaders abdicate their duties and responsibilities. This is the only country where there are humps (bumps) in streets every two meters. Anybody can just put humps in front of his/her house. In other countries, if ever there are humps, they are there to aid traffic. Here humps are used as a substitute for parenting and disciplining children.

Take 1st Street in Barangay 596, Sta. Mesa, Manila. It is such a short stretch but it has no less than five humps of different sizes and forms. You could even trip on two of the humps. The ones who put them up simply said that it is there to protect their children from being bumped by passing cars. Why, I asked, are they playing in the streets unattended? Obviously, the fathers are either glued to the PBA game on TV or are engaged in some social activities (read, drinking and playing cards) with neighbors or they are still hard at work somewhere. The mothers are either doing one thousand and one household chores, glued to a soap opera show on TV, out having a friendly chat (read, gossip) with the neighbors or they are still pressed hard earning a living here or abroad.

They have delegated their parental leadership, love and caring to the street humps. Accidents happen because of reckless drivers. So let us put up as many humps in the streets to protect our children. Huh! The children run around with no supervision. No number of humps could protect them or instill in them discipline and respect for each others' rights.

Discipline

Parents don't bother that the streets have become hazardous because of their own vehicles parked "military-style" in the street rendering the street hard to navigate and impeding the peripheral vision of drivers. Children dart in and out of park cars. Or they set up chairs and tables right in the street for some socializing thingy with their neighbors leaving running vehicles not much space to maneuver. Or they appropriate the sidewalk and street as extension of their house, business or garden.

Followership? What are we teaching our children?

Talk about our early training on leadership. Parental leadership by street humps/bumps. Only in the Philippines, *ano po ang magagawa natin dito, Chairman Bayani Fernando*?

Back to back

Bob and Moje, Moje and Bob. WORKING WOUNDED back to back with INNOVATION CAMP! Isn't this a great idea? On August 15, I shall do the front act for the two Working Wounded Workshops with America's favorite motivational speaker and PAW columnist Bob Rosner. On August 16, I shall lead a group of facilitators to give you an 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Innovation Camp. This will happen only once in a lifetime, you shouldn't miss it. *Pag-ipunan na ninyo o magpa-sponsor na kayo sa kumpanya ninyo*. You may call Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. at tel. no. 414-0186 to reserve and ensure that you have seats. Hurry!

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com)

Support network is necessary for work/life balance

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

AS WORKING moms, we need a network of support. We need people we can trust to extend our presence when we cannot cross the divide between work and home, between dreams and obligations. They are our safety harness, our belayers when the climb gets too steep and when we need some time to simply drop off. They can also be our guides, showing us the way to perform better at work or to reach out to our children more effectively.

Connie Balmaceda, a working mom to five children, now doing a temporary solo act as her husband works abroad, wrote to pay tribute to a key member of her support system: her son's basketball coach. Her account shows how many people are willing to help us help our kids--they are a working mom's secret weapons. This is Connie's story:

"My son has a dream. It is to become either a basketball player or a Pope.

While he enjoyed his CLE (Christian Learning Experience or Religion) classes and put Bible passages to heart, he knew he could do only so much in taking the first steps to being a Pope.

"But at the age of nine, he spent his after-school hours playing pick-up games or shooting baskets. Summers were spent joining neighborhood tournaments or training and trying out, only to be told at the end of each summer that he did not make it to the team. That was the sob story of his dream even until a year ago when, at age 11, during the summer he trained and tried out for the school team, again to be told that he was no. 17 and only the top 15 would be in. This time though, he stayed on, trained and practiced daily. Then his perseverance, patience and diligence were rewarded with the news from the coach that he was "in" as two boys had to be dropped because of erratic practice attendance.

"As parents, we felt that our prayers were answered. We vowed that we would give our son all our support. My husband patiently waited during practices and bonded with the other parents. The entire family spent its weekends either attending practices or watching games. We shelled out funds for uniforms, meals, transportation, teambuilding sessions and venue rental.

"And in all of these, we also promised that we would, for the first time, entrust our son to a surrogate father, his coach. His coach was the ideal surrogate father. He was a mentor, a provider, a disciplinarian, a shining example of a man of passion and dedication. When he welcomed our sons with open arms, he embraced our families too. We saw how he cared for them as any parent would and we learned to let go.

"He had a vision for his boys. He saw their individual potential and developed them. With his responsibility came the authority and we respected that. He patiently taught them not just the basic rules of playing basketball but the basic values of discipline and hard work. He did not hesitate to penalize a boy for a wrongdoing or for misbehavior. He made sure that while the boys pursued their dreams, they should not lose sight of their primary obligation--to do well in their schoolwork.

"He inspired and nurtured them. At times when the boys' parents were not around to lend support, morally or financially, he was there, accepting the responsibility selflessly. He would drive for them and bring them home if need be. Even the boys' siblings, who learned to give in for their brothers, were recipients of his concern. He gave much of his time and love without any promise of material rewards. And in the face of adversity, he remained a gentleman.

"He was proud of his 'sons.' All he wanted in return was to see a winning team, a team who would work hard at winning but would have fun yet know how to handle losing with dignity. And in all these, he remained humble and unassuming.

"After just a year under the tutelage of his coach, together with the team, my son has since experienced regional and national championships, was once adjudged Most Valuable Player in a tournament and Best Defender during a basketball camp. The team was able to hurdle the challenges and obstacles that came with participating in a world basketball championship in Las Vegas. Although they came home with no medals or trophies, the boys gained deeper friendships and precious memories and became better persons, confident but humble.

"My son has since left his coach's nest to move on to another, still pursuing his dream. Just like us, his own parents, his first surrogate father remains constant and always there, mentoring and cheering him on. We thank you, Coach, for being part of our family and for making our son's dream come true."

I'd love to hear your working mom stories, too. Write to me at workingmom@pinoycentral.com.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of ABS-CBN Publishing's Metro Working Mom. Get more working mom tips in the latest issue with Maricel Soriano on the cover.)

POWER BOOKS, represented by Maximo Gabriel Licauco, Operations Manager (second from right) signs up as a corporate sponsor of the Special People at Work Live! Seminar Series this August, "Bob Rosner Live! In Manila." Bob Rosner, best-selling author, syndicated columnist and motivational speaker, will be coming to Manila to give seminars on "12 Steps to Better Bossing" and "Managing Against the Odds (Advice for the Working Wounded) on August 15 at the Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCI Bank Tower 1, Makati Ave., Makati City. Companies who care for people at work have subsidized this program to make it accessible to the public at popular ticket prices. Call tel. no. 414-0186 to register. Also at the signing are (seated from left) Juan Reyes, Jr., president of Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc., the seminar organizer; Reno Reinoso, Inquirer's SVP for Sales and Marketing; and Vanessa Yu, Purchasing Officer, Power Books. Standing (from left) are Donald Lim, Inquirer marketing services head, and Regina Galang Reyes, People at Work editor.

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MANILA

Legaspi T300 Roxas Blvd FF 20/F ofc T-9251467

PASIG

418sqm 2Sly Apt. frnt College, Chrch 6414589, 09175372340

64.383T sqm Pasig 10 mins. to Ortigas T-6414589, 09175372340

OTHER AREAS

★SUBIC 52has@300/m² neg w/fruit trees 0916-3741571

HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

PARANAQUE

BLS Bung LA300m² 3BR/ Fmly.Rm 2TB M&DRM Grden 2CG w/Tel H2O 8239255

H/L 105m² P1M up 8239255

Remanville LA-240m² FA-315m² 2Sty 4BR 4TB 2Blcny MR 2CG w/ Tel H2O FF or Semi-FF 8239255

UPS4 LA330m² FA450m² 2Sty 5BR 5TB w/Roofdk w/SP, MR w/Basement 8239255

PASIG

Capitol 8 Pasig 4br Pool 400m² P13M 633-7601/03

QUEZON CITY

Acropolis 4-6Brs P14-34M Vacant Lots 300; 500; 700m² P33-38T/sqm 633-7601/03

Californian Inspired! Kamias New 6BR/4TB 2CG #75 K-9 St 4.8M neg 3725866

Filinvest II 7BR 9323589

Nova P6T/mo 11yrs 9390299

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Proj4 JRizal la 198m² P3.5M T'chers Vill la553m² 9.5M RUSH 9315869/09177872830

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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

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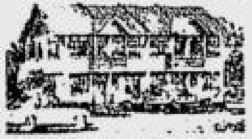
CASIMIRO TOWNHOMES
Habay, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

VILLA FELIZA HOMES
Alabang Zapote Rd.,
Las Piñas City
Initial DP: P 25,000



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APARTMENT

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MANILA

Apt 7841746/6682108

QUEZON CITY

CUBAO 1NR Flat semfurn w/sqtr carpark 10T 7210789

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HOUSE

ALABANG

AYALA ALABANG 2-Storey 5BR 6TB Pool T8439015/17

MAKATI

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PARANAQUE

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QUEZON CITY

Acropolis / Crnthian / Valle 4-8br 60-120T 633-7601/03

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

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June 24, 2002

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The Bid and Award Committee of the Province of Iloilo hereby invites Contractors who are duly accredited by the National Power Corporation (NAPOCOR); and are classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as **Medium A**; for *Electrical Works Specialties (High Voltage Lines and Sub-station Equipment Installation)*, to apply for qualification/eligibility, and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Substation Equipment, Transmission Lines; and related Sub-station Civil Works for the New Iloilo Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Qualification/Accreditation statements are available for issuance to interested Contractors at the PBAC Secretariat, Provincial Planning and Development Office, Home Technology Building, Iloilo National High School, Luna Street, La Paz, Iloilo City on **July 11 to 12, 2002**, upon presentation of a Letter of Intent addressed to and received by the Office of Governor Niel D. Tupas. Submission of qualification/ accreditation documents will be on **July 19, 2002** only.

Plans and bidding documents are available at the Provincial Engineer's Office, Multi-purpose Covered Gym, Magsaysay Village, La Paz, Iloilo City for issuance to qualified Contractors on **August 2, 2002** only, upon payment of the amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00), which is non-refundable.

The BAC shall hold pre-bid conference on **August 9, 2002** at 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City.

Sealed bids shall be received by the BAC on **August 16, 2002** from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the SP Session Hall of the Old Provincial Capitol at Iloilo City, which will be publicly opened at 2:15 p.m. of the same date.

The Provincial Government of Iloilo reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any formality in such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Iloilo Provincial Government.

(Sgd.) **NIEL D. TUPAS**
Governor

(PDI - July 3, 10 & 17, 2002)

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that the intestate estate of the late JUAN & DOLORES MONTENEGRO was extrajudicially settled by their heirs per Doc#221, Book#1, Series 2002 before Consul Rosalita Prospero of Synod, Aus.
(PDI-June 19, 26 & July 3, 2002)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that Metrobank Stock Certificates Nos 6032 & 106096 issued to JOSE NG CHUA were lost
(PDI-June 20, 27 & July 3, 2002)

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OBITUARIES

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*For more information, please call your funeral director

DR. ARMANDO F. DEANG, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator
on June 29, 2002 at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **Patrocinio Tablante**; children **Manny** and **Babit**, **Annabelle** and **Casey Cabe**, **Nini** and **Johnny Limjoco**, **Joseph** and **Agnes**, **Jun** and **Jasmin**, **Noel** and **Cristy**, **Gigi** and **Armand Contreras**, **Thomas** and **Joan**; brothers, sisters, in-laws and other relatives and friends mourn his passing away but celebrate his eternal rest with the Lord Jesus. The pious readers are requested to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at House of Many Mansions, MacArthur Highway, Pulungbulu, Angeles City.

Interment will be on Thursday, July 4, 2002 at Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City after a 9:15 a.m. Memorial Service at the Holy Rosary Parish Church, Angeles City.

Felipa Carrillo-Flores, M.D.

of San Matias, Sto. Tomas, Pampanga
born on November 1, 1920

Joined her Creator on June 28, 2002.

Her bereaved family: husband ***Quirino***; children and grandchildren ***Chito*** and Nini - Thayer, Shane and Jordan; ***Cynthia*** and Willie - Mitzi, Happy, Cindy and Krissie; ***Roy*** and Susan - Mike and Jenny; ***Gerry*** and Tess - JP, Genevieve, Mallory and Melissa; ***Rina*** and Gerry - Felicity; Bro. Charlie de Guzman; and Brother ***Pedro B. Carrillo***, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, San Fernando, Pampanga and will be transferred to the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City on Friday, July 5, 2002.

Cremation follows the 7:30 a.m. Mass on Saturday, July 6, 2002.

*IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, donations to any of the following will be accepted: San Matias Parish Church (Pampanga); Our Lady of Pentecost Parish (Loyola Heights, QC); or CFC-Angkop Foundation, Inc.

JUANITA CORUÑA ELIZALDE

Graduate of St. Scholastica's College Manila
G.S. '31, H.S. '35 and B.S.E. '39

Was called home by the Heavenly Father on June 29, 2002.

Her spouse **Eduardo Elizalde** (†); her brothers and sisters **Rosendo Coruña** (†), **Magdalena Coruña**, **Jose Coruña** (†), **Jorge Coruña** (†), **Agustin Coruña Jr.** (†), **Flora Acosta**, **Alberto Coruña** (†), **Rosita Coruña**, **Benjamin Coruña** (†), **Loreto Coruña**; her brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember her in their prayers.

Her remains lie in state at the family residence in Hinigaran, Negros Occidental.

Interment will be in Hinigaran, Negros Occidental. Date to be announced later.

SIBS Publishing House commemorates the birth anniversary of its beloved founding president.

SIBS PUBLISHING HOUSE, INC.

Jesus Ernesto R. Sibal

A pioneer in the local publishing industry, Jesus Ernesto Sibal (July 3,1943–October 3, 2000) sought to raise the quality of education of the Filipino schoolchildren by producing quality textbooks. He was an ardent advocate of textbook Filipinization and the privatization of the textbook publishing industry. His legacy of dedication and commitment to Philippine education and the local textbook publishing industry serves as a touchstone of excellence for all those who have the honor of working for the company he founded, **SIBS Publishing House**.

His family, friends, associates, and staff offer Eucharistic celebrations at the following:

1.	**Basilica del Sto. Nino** Cebu City	5:30 a.m.
2.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** Basak, Mandaue	5:30 a.m.
3.	**Our Lady of Lourdes Parish** Punta Princesa, Labangon, Cebu City	5:30 a.m
4.	**St. Joseph Parish** Mandaue City	5:30 a.m.
5.	**San Narciso Parish** Consolacion, Cebu	5:30 a.m.
6.	**Virgen de la Regla Parish** Lapu-Lapu City, Cebu	5:30 a.m.
7.	**Sto. Rosario Parish** Cebu City	5:45 a.m.
8.	**Christ the King Church** Green Meadows, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
9.	**Our Lady of EDSA** Ortigas Avenue corner EDSA, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
10.	**Our Lady of Perpetual Help** 13th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City	6:00 a.m.
11.	**Paco Catholic Church** Paz Street, Paco, Manila	6:00 a.m.
12.	**Pasig Catholic Church** Malinao Street, Pasig City	6:00 a.m.
13.	**Redemptorist Church** Cebu City	6:00 a.m.
14.	**Sacred Heart Parish** Calinan, Davao City	6:00 a.m.
15.	**St. Francis Church** Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City	6:00 a.m.
16.	**San Roque Parish** Yati, Liloan, Cebu	6:00 a.m.
17.	**San Sebastian Church** C.M. Recto Avenue, Manila	6:00 a.m.
18.	**SIBS Publishing House, Inc** 3rd Floor, N.B. Santos Bldg. 937 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City	12:00 n.n.
19.	**Espiritu Santo Parochial Church** Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila	6:00 p.m.
20.	**San Isidro Catholic Church** Taft Avenue, Pasay City	6:00 p.m.

"When a great man dies, for years the light he leaves behind him lies on the paths of men."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

In Loving Memory of

Paciencia Marasigan Manongsong

(Lola Ising)

who peacefully joined her Creator
on June 29, 2002 at the age of 78.

Her bereaved husband **Pedro**; children and in-laws **Vedasto** and **Mimi**, **Elena** and **Doming**, **Elda** and **Adolfo**, **Nilo** and **Wilma**, **Irenea** and **Salvador**, **Filbert** and **Helen**, **Lina** and **Dario**, **Luis** and **Vivian** and **Rida**; and grandchildren request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in her residence at 1071 Blumentritt St., Sampaloc, Manila.

Interment will be at 8:00 a.m., Sunday, July 7, 2002 at Abra de Ilog Cemetery, Occidental Mindoro.

R.I.P.

FRANCISCO BAYOT ZALDARRIAGA

(29 June, 1914 - 1 July, 2002)

His wife **Victoria Sison**, sister **Carmen Z. Arnaiz**, brothers **Jose** † and **Luis**, children: **Ramon & Frances, Angela & Smith, Bunny & Henri, Kitina & Chito, Gingin & Emil, Maricar, Chito & Cornel**; grandchildren, great-grandchildren & other relatives ask the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains will be at the Zaldarriaga Antipolo residence. Memorial services will start at 6:00 p.m., Friday, July 5, 2002.

"Home is the sailor
home from the sea
and the hunter
home from the hill"

Please omit flowers.

Ex-Mayor Juanito K. Uy

of San Narciso, Quezon

passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 1, 2002 at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **Allen**; children **Joyal & Erwin**, **Wendell & Myra**, **Juanito "Tata" Jr.**, **Phobelle**, **Leng-Leng** and **Lean**; grandchildren; brother **Dr. Vicente Uy** and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body will lie in state at the Holy Rosary Catholic School Chapel, Lucena City from July 2-3, 2002, and at Uy's residence in San Narciso, Quezon from July 3 to 9, 2002.

Interment will be on Tuesday, July 9, 2002 at the San Narciso Cemetery, San Narciso, Quezon at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon.

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OVEREMPHASIS ON CALL CENTERS

ICT schools, firms hit Roxas' 'myopic' strategy

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

TOP officials of the country's leading information and communication technology (ICT) schools and corporations lambasted the Department of Trade and Industry's myopic ICT development strategy because of its overemphasis on attracting call centers into the country.

Systems Technology Institute president and CEO Chito B. Salazar warned that the DTI's zealous promotion of call centers could put the ICT industry on the same mediocre development path as that of the garments industry.

Salazar, who echoed the views made by leading ICT players during an informal meeting recently, said the garments industry had not developed beyond the assembly stage because its workers' skills were very fundamental and the training was minimal.

"I have nothing against call centers, they give very high salaries. But call centers provide dead-end jobs with a narrow pyramid or limited room for growth," Salazar said.

Salazar said the DTI's push to make the country a call center hub was a short-term strategy because these investments could be pulled out and relocated very easily once other countries start offering lower wages and communication skills at par with the skills of Filipinos.

Instead of call centers, Salazar said the DTI should be encouraging investors to invest in Internet-based services, software programming and graphic design facilities in the country. Just like garments, which had been overtaken by other countries because of the country's failure to shift to design, Salazar said the Philippine ICT sector was in danger of being left in the dust by other countries that were beefing up their capacities.

ROXAS

Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II has led several high-profile investment missions overseas since the Estrada administration to promote the ICT sector. Roxas has even tagged call centers as the answer to the 70,000 jobless ICT graduates.

But these promotion efforts have gone to waste, according to Salazar, because the DTI's rhetoric focused only on call centers. "In a US investment mission, which was participated in by the country's top businessmen, we were frustrated to find out that only call centers were being promoted."

He said it was important to promote the ICT sector now in anticipation of the imminent recovery of the sector two to three years down the road.

Equitable PCI plans to sell 2 thrift banks

By Clarissa S. Batino

EQUITABLE PCI Bank said it would sell this year two of its remaining three thrift banks.

The bank also said it would pursue a P6-billion retail-based tier-two capital build-up to speed up its recovery and enhance its competitiveness.

Bank president Rene Buenaventura said Equitable PCI had started holding exploratory talks with at least four foreign and local groups interested in acquiring Mindanao Development Bank and Ecology Bank. He said the group would retain Equitable PCI Savings Bank.

He refused to name the interested buyers but sources said these might include foreign lenders Citibank N.A. and Standard Chartered Bank, which were reportedly planning to buy small banks for their retail operations.

On the P6-billion tier-two capital the bank is planning to raise, Equitable PCI executive vice president Bienvenido Juat said the bank had commissioned Deutsche Bank to conduct the third party requirements. Deutsche Bank will serve as arranger and market maker.

The tier-two capital will be raised in the form of subordinated debt. It can be denominated in peso or dollar, or a combination of the two currencies.

Juat said the BSP allowed banks to raise tier-two capital equivalent to 25 percent of its current capital base.

Buenaventura said the capital build-up would be pursued in late third quarter or in early fourth quarter.

"We will sell about P6 billion tier-two notes maturing in five years through our branches so we can retail them. We are still deciding on the currency mix," said the bank president.

He added that the tier-two notes would not be sold to institutional investors.

Tier-two capital is a long-term borrowing that can be converted into equity upon maturity while tier-one capital is an outright equity infusion.

In late 2000, Equitable PCI sold PCI Bank and its 14 branches to HSBC for about P1.1 billion. The foreign lender bought PCI Bank to strengthen its retail banking operations.

Mindanao Development and Ecology Bank have about 30 branches each. Ecology Bank is active in Metro Manila while Mindanao Development Bank focuses its operations in Southern Philippines, although it has one branch in Metro Manila. ***With a report from Elena R. Torrijos***

Gov't reduces treasury paper sales in 2nd half

THE GOVERNMENT said it would scale down offerings of treasury paper in the second half of this year after a highly successful sale of retail bonds gave its budget deficit financing program a major lift.

National Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said that the Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs), that produced a larger-than-expected windfall of P62.95 billion last month, had given the government scope to trim the fortnightly sale of Treasury bills to P9 billion from P9.5 billion.

In addition, only one bond issuance, that of a four-year paper, will be held in December while the number of bond auctions in November will be reduced to three from four, he said. Bond auctions are usually held every Tuesday.

Edeza, who was speaking to reporters after the Treasury rejected all bids for P3 billion worth of two-year bonds, said the changes would be announced formally on Wednesday.

"The increase in the volumes of RTBs allows us to reduce the auctions over the next few months," he said.

The government uses the funds from its treasury auctions to finance the country's budget deficit, which hit P147.02 billion last year and is targeted at P130 billion this year.

Despite Treasury assurances that it has ample cash to meet its deficit financing needs, many traders in the secondary market remain unconvinced and have been seeking to bid up yields in anticipation of increased government borrowings in the second half. ***Reuters***

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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso** Chief of Correspondents **Pam Pastor**

2bU!

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Pet lovers of the world, unite!

As 2bU! gets ready to host a rock concert and fashion show at Eastwood City on Saturday to promote animal rights and welfare, it lets you in on the universe of pets, pet lovers and pet care. For what will our world be without our favorite pets? A little less messy perhaps but ultimately joyless

ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

Dream pets and pet names

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

Bored with Bantay for the longest time? Having a catfight with Muning for the nth time?

If you had money, power and magic, what animal would you rather have for a pet and what name would you give it?

An assortment of animal lovers reveal their dream pets and the wacky names they plan to give them.

I want a kangaroo or a koala named Chuck. *Wala lang.*—**Tracy, 12, has a crush on classmate Chuck**

A hummingbird named Tweet.—**Anna Patricia, nicknamed Tweet**

My dream pet is a parrot that can repeat everything I say. I'll call it Isa and we'll have so much fun.—**Anna Belle, 15**

I want a dolphin, plus a huge pool. I'll call my dolphin Periwinkle.—**Girlie Bunnie, 25, wants the pool more than the dolphin**

DREAM/ p.C2

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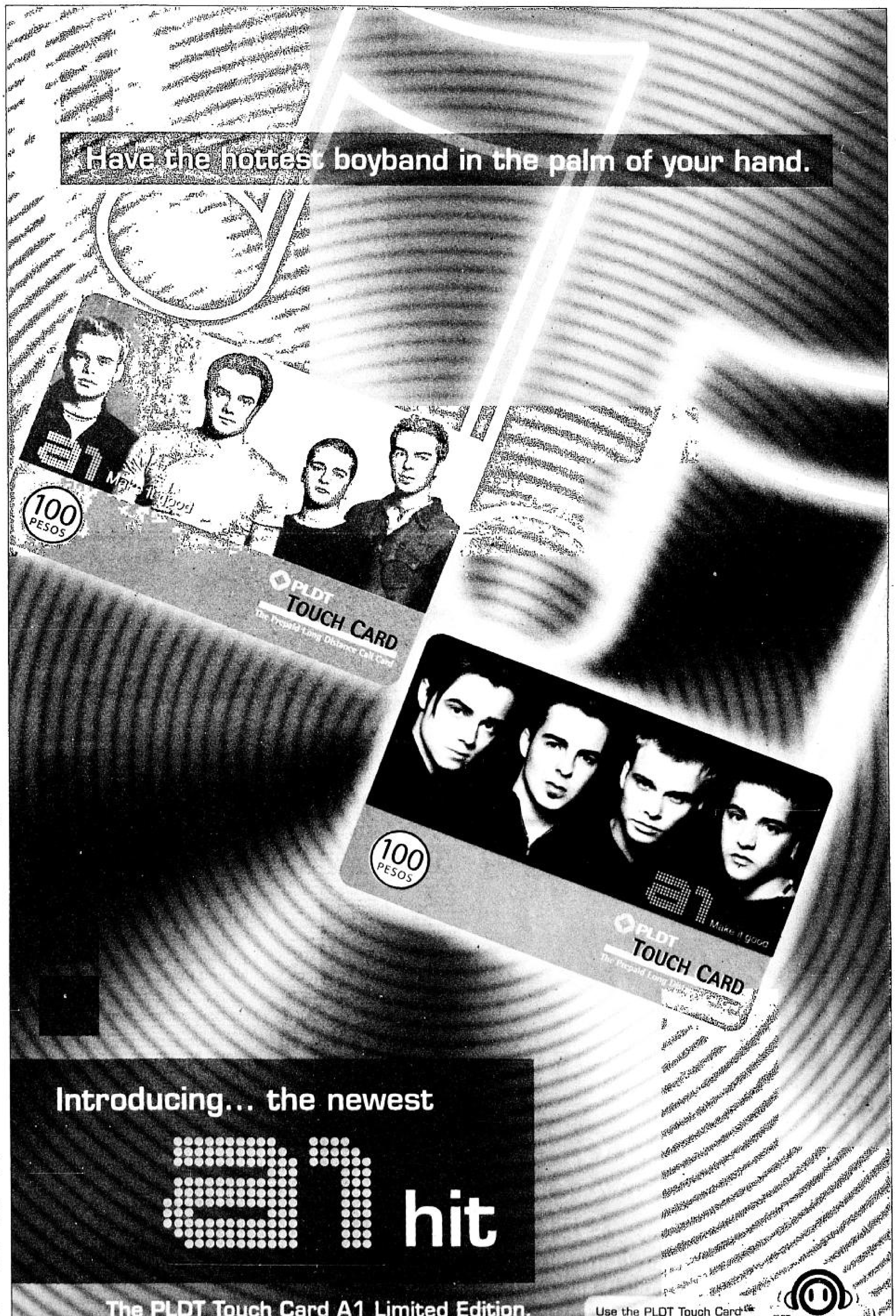
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A vet gives the basics of pet care

By Michelle Pino
2bU! Correspondent

PROPER animal care is an important part of responsible pet ownership. A pet owner has to know what's good for his pet and to tend to its needs. Are you doing the right thing for your pet?

2bU! made a quick visit to canine expert and livestock specialist Dr. Joseph Z. Angeles to get some basic information on pet care and solutions and remedies to problems your furry friends might be having.

FAQs

The most popular animal companion, as we know and which was confirmed by Angeles, president of the Philippine Animal Hospital Association, are canines or dogs. Thus, veterinarians are more often asked for information about dogs. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions and Angeles' answers.

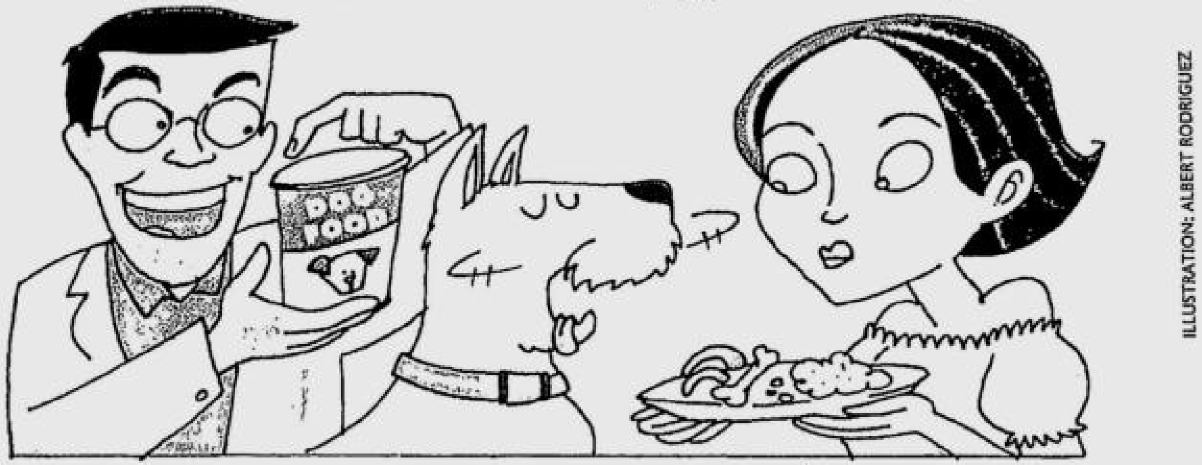


ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

When should puppies get their vaccinations?

Angeles said puppies can start getting their vaccinations at 3 months old. Aside from the anti-rabies shot, he recommends the five-in-one vaccination, which will protect puppies from distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis, parainfluenza and canine parvovirus.The anti-rabies vaccination has to be administered every year.

When does deworming start?

At 3-4 weeks, puppies can already be dewormed, according to Angeles. Depending on where your pet dogs stay, they should be dewormed every six months.

How do you control ticks (*garapata*), fleas (*pulgas*), lice (*kuto*) and mites (*galis*)?

Do not attempt to use home remedies, Angeles warns. Use medicated dog soaps and shampoos that you can get from your vet. They contain special formulations designed to address your pet's skin or fur problem.

What is the best food for my pet?

Angeles said giving table scraps and leftover food is not healthy as they do not meet the nutritional needs of pets. Leftover foods can only ease our pet's hunger but not provide their nutritional requirements. Nutritious food is important especially for puppies.

> Giving table scraps and leftover food is not healthy, as they do not meet the nutritional needs of pets

How often should pets undergo checkup?

Dogs should get revaccinated every year. Deworming should be done every six month. Pets should undergo regular checkup at least twice a year but the animal should be brought to the vet when any abnormal behavior is observed.

How often should a pet be bathed?

Dogs should be bathed once a week. Never use detergent because it will be harmful to the pet's skin or hair. If you don't want to use special deodorizing shampoos, baby shampoo is safe enough even for puppies.

First aid

If you can't immediately bring your pet to the vet, learn some first-aid treatments to cope with emergencies.

If you suspect that your dog or cat ate something poisonous, try to identify the substance first. Check its eating dish or its mouth. During the rainy season, many pets are poisoned by coming into contact with toads. At home, insecticides are the most common causes of pet poisoning. When you suspect that your dog has been poisoned this way, keep it awake and make it sip a mixture of sugar, salt and water.

If you think the animal has ingested rat poison, force the animal to vomit. Do this either by putting salt in its mouth or reaching down its throat using your hand.

If your pet is hurt in a vehicular accident, make sure to calm it down first. If it becomes too agitated, tie its mouth shut to prevent it from biting people. Do not touch the injured part. Carefully attach a splint to the injured part. If the animal has a small wound, wash it with soap and water, then apply an antiseptic solution.

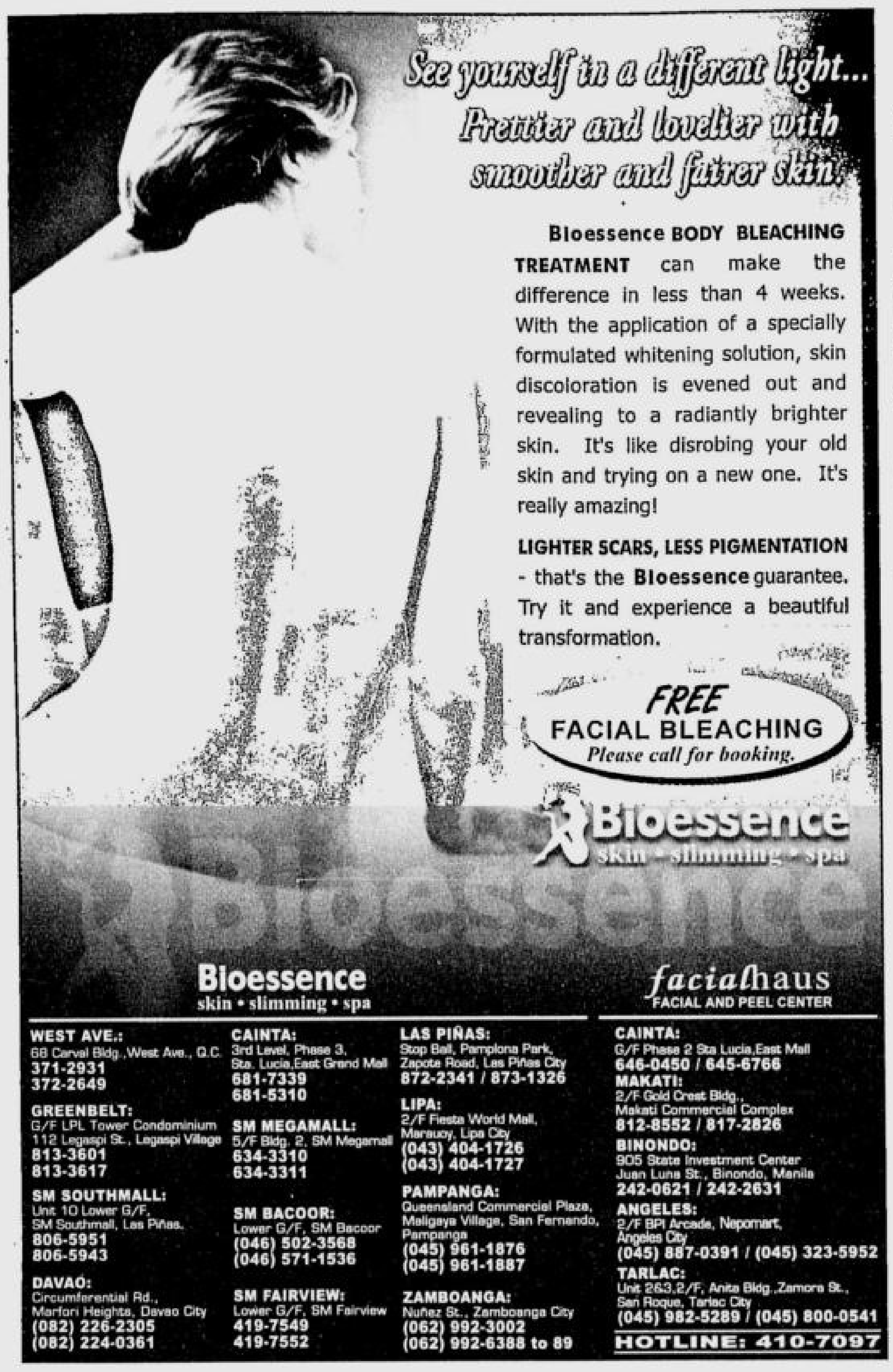
If your pet has diarrhea, let it drink a salt-sugar solution constantly to prevent dehydration. Do not give it oily foods and milk. You can feed it hard-boiled egg or a specially prepared canned food for this kind of problem.

Don't play doctor

Never treat your pets yourself especially if they are behaving abnormally. After you have given first aid, rush your pet to the vet, who will be able to do a more accurate assessment of the animal's condition

A basic rule in proper pet care is to provide your companion a spacious shelter, good quality food and regular baths. They should be protected from the most common diseases through vaccination.

The Philippine Animal Hospital Association will launch an outreach rabies-eradication program this month. Interested sponsors can e-mail the author at michikookoo@edsamail.com.ph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Dream pets and pet names

From page C1

You remember Eek the cat? I want something like him. Anything purple actually. I'd name him Q, W or any other letter I fancy.—**Juancho C., 17, likes the color pink**

I want a baby lion *sana*. Lion-O *ang* name, *o di ba* Thundercats!—**Carmont, 30, also misses Cheetara**

A poodle named Noodle.—**RR Leyva likes to doodle**

An eagle. I'll call it Ebony Randee. Ha ha ha!—**L. Malvecino, 23, bird lover**

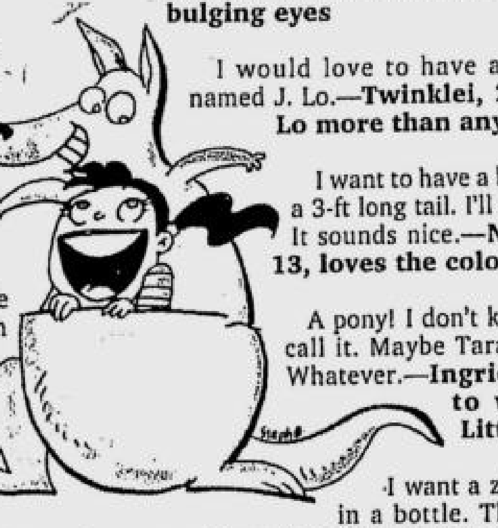
A pair of lovebirds named Jude and Sadie.—**Safel, 18, in love with Jude Law**

I dream of a ranch full of horses.—**Joeti, 23, believes he was a cowboy in one of his past lives**

I want a snake, the yellow and white kind, and I'll call it Tisoy.—**Neil, 14, is not *tisoy***

A bunny called Bugs.—**Fritzie, 17, adores Bugs Bunny**

I want lots of butterflies. *Wala ng pangapangalan, masyado kasing marami*. But I'll definitely name some Mariah and some Regine.—**Roda Romualdez, 22, a Mariah and Regine fan**



Cute *siguro yung* baby elephant *na hindi na lalaki pa*. Ely the elephant *ang* name. *Baduy 'no?*—**Beth, 27, works in a bank**

A seriously furry kitty cat. Fat and gray. I'll call it Ashley.—**Elaine, 20, seriously *balbon***

I want a teeny tiny turtle. Make that four so I could name them Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael and Michelangelo.—**Ronald Y., 21, obviously a "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" fan**

Gusto ko madaming starfish. I'll call them Superstar, Megastar, Star for all Seasons, Star of the New Decade, Diamond Star, etc.—**Sariwang Saribong, sitcom starlet**

Dream pet, right? I want a flying dragon, like the one on "Never Ending Story," because he'll be able to take me anywhere I want to go, he'll speak and he'll be cuddly. I'll call him Mouse, don't ask me why.—**Ms Mate, who also wants JM Rodriguez as a pet**

I want a dog named Muning.—**Popoy, 8, dog and cat lover**

Impossible but I wish I had a pink and purple striped snake or maybe a black one with purple spots. I'll call it Pssst.—**Nini Nishiumi, 26**

I'm not the type who shells out money for animals but if ever someone gives me a donation, I'll buy a goldfish and name it Angelika.—**Jerich,12, has a sister who will appear on "Master Showman"**

If I didn't have arachnophobia, I'd want a furry spidey and call it Octa.—**Valen Sta. Teresa has eight crushes in class**

A parrot named Katokling.—**Kerr Estonillo, happily married but sorely misses Giovanni Calvo**

You know those colored chicks? I want seven in rainbow colors and I'll name them accordingly.—**Maricel Hiwatig, 20, got accepted as a student trainee at GMA**

A white mouse or a hamster named Pia, not Stuart.—**Rya, 22, watches "Review Night" because of Ryan Agoncillo**

A lot of those fishes that have really bulging eyes. I don't think I'll call them anything, just fishy.—**Teresa M. 17, doesn't have bulging eyes**

I would love to have an anaconda named J. Lo.—**Twinklei, 25, loves J. Lo more than any snake**

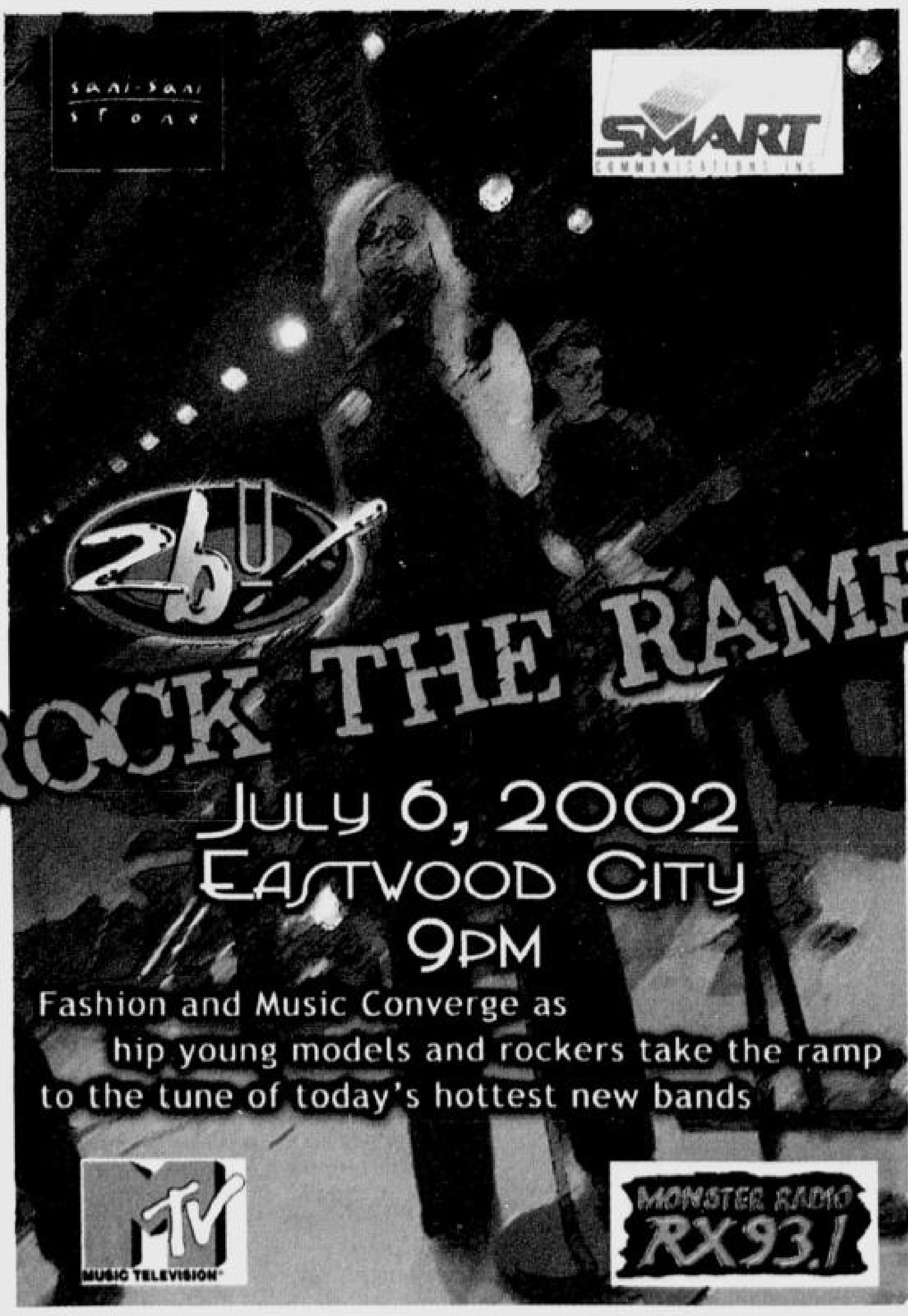
I want to have a black cat with a 3-ft long tail. I'll call it Koona. It sounds nice.—**Nina Marie, 13, loves the color black**

A pony! I don't know what I'll call it. Maybe Tara or Current. Whatever.—**Ingrid, 23, used to watch "My Little Pony"**

I want a zillion fireflies in a bottle. That'll make a good lamp. I wouldn't give them names since there'll be too many of them.—**Amit, 15, farsighted**

My dream pet is an iguana. I'll probably call it Chester Bentong or Jessic Zafar.—**Niong, fan of Chester Bennington and Jessica Zafra**

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com


Fashion and Music Converge as hip young models and rockers take the ramp to the tune of today's hottest new bands

Exotic pets need unconventional love

By Anne Rose A. Elicaño
2bU! Correspondent

Special care and attention are part of the package

CALVIN'S "partner in crime" is an irrepressible tiger, while Harry Potter's companion is an owl. But these fictional young 'uns aren't the only ones with a preference for unconventional critters.

Vets in North America have noticed an increasing interest by pet owners in the exotic, animals that cannot be brought home in a fishbowl, walked around the neighborhood, or given a daily dose of catnip. Exotic pets appeal to that side of us all that has grown tired of the standard, tail-wagging domestic pet. Iggy, the iguana, is beginning to replace the dog as man's quintessential best friend.

Are you ready for an exotic pet?

Unconventional pets call for equally unconventional pet owners. Special care and attention—which average pet owners may not be able to provide—are part of the exotic-pet package. Many of the exotic animals are abandoned and eventually die because owners eventually realize they do not have the time to give the care they need.

Here are important things to keep in mind before buying an exotic pet:

Distinguish pets from non-pets. Non-pets are animals on the endangered species list. Unless you want to provoke environmental groups like Greenpeace or even go to jail, it is best to view the endangered species in their natural habitats or visit them in the zoo. Non-pets also include wild and dangerous animals, like tigers and lions. Not only will they ruin your furniture, but they may also have you for dinner.

The price. The money paid to buy an exotic is only part of the cost of keeping such a pet. Be prepared to spend for the maintenance of its living area, special food (you wouldn't expect a parrot to eat leftovers, would you?), and special health care.

Veterinary needs. Not all veterinarians are qualified to care for exotics. You have to make sure that there's someone qualified to handle your pet's problems.

Compatibility with other pets. If you have other animals in the house, this is an important point to consider. Exotics may be eaten or stressed to death by other pets or vice versa. Some exotics should not be kept as pets if there are children around. Your little brother might ignore the "do not touch" rule and could get hurt.

Your sense of responsibility. Some people buy animals they find adorable on impulse only to realize that pets are actually a huge responsibility. Give the pet the wrong food and it will die of malnutrition. Forget to clean its living area and your place will smell, uh, exotic.

But the rewards you reap for being responsible are many. When you hear your friends gushing over your healthy, decidedly pampered chameleon, you'll know what I mean. If you get an exotic only to realize you cannot handle the responsibility, please do not abandon it. It may be a danger to others (think snakes) or die for lack of caring. Call the nearest zoo or animal shelter for help.

If you really want an exotic pet, get as much information as you can. Do research on the Internet, interview exotic pet owners, or ask your zoology professor about the care of such animals. You have to have the know-how to keep your exotic pet healthy and happy.

Here is a brief guide to four of the most popular exotic pet choices.

Caterpillars

Why keep a caterpillar: It's great to see a caterpillar metamorphose into a lovely butterfly. But once the caterpillar becomes a butterfly, set it free. Butterflies are not meant to be kept in bottles.

Food: Leaves, rose petals, lichen.

Turf: Huge mayonnaise jars with sand in the bottom and holes punched on the lid for ventilation. Hang a twig from the top so it can make its cocoon.

Special care: Change leaves and remove droppings every two days. Dip a few leaves in water before giving them to the caterpillar (it gets thirsty, too).

Mice

The movie "Stuart Little" might have changed people's notions that mice are disgusting. Mice may make ideal pets. They are very amusing and make few demands.

Why keep a mouse: Cute and low-maintenance at the same time. They multiply fast so you can sell the offspring.

Food: Pellets, grain, sunflower seeds.

Turf: Glass aquariums, plastic cages, wire cages, or hamster houses. Don't forget the running wheel.

Special care: Keep the cage away from direct sunlight, other pets and predators. You can tame the mouse by letting it run around your palm (unless you're too squeamish). Mice love playing in things with plenty of holes in them, such as egg cartons.

Snakes

Snakes are among the few animals that can be both charming and lethal. Definitely not for the faint of heart, snake-tracking skills also have to be learned in the event it escapes from its cage.

Why keep a snake: To quote a friend, snakes are ideal for people who don't have space for cats and dogs but want a pet that's more interactive than fish.

Food: Mice or chicks, which might have to be given dead to prevent injury to the snake.

Turf: Glass cages.

Special care: Depends on the breed. Beginners should choose corn snakes, king snakes or ball pythons. They are easier to care for.

Chameleons

Think of the chameleon as a living, breathing version of a mood ring. Chameleons change color when excited, when the temperature changes, when it feels the need to camouflage, and when it sees another chameleon. Dark colors signify that the chameleon is stressed while brighter colors show that it's in a better mood.

Why keep a chameleon: A pet that changes its skin color as often as you change your cell phone casing is pretty interesting.

Food: At least five varieties of insects make up a nutritious, well-balanced chameleon meal.

Turf: A well-ventilated cage with plants for climbing and privacy.

Special care: Chameleons are not the easiest pets to care for. For instance, some breeds require UV lighting and a misting system in their cages. Chameleons also hate being handled.

Remember, however, that no matter what pet you choose to have eventually, make sure you buy only from authorized breeders so that you get the healthiest animal and help stop the illegal animal trade.

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com

The sixth member of the family

By Leslie Ann Tan
2bU! Correspondent

Tyra is family. She eats, sleeps and plays with us. Why, she even drives the family car

A DOG has always been the sixth member of our family. Before that, when I was a little kid, my dad had a big police dog, Willard, for close to a decade. He died one day because of "old age," or so that was what my dad told me. We gave him a decent funeral, and then, missing the company of a pawed friend, we immediately got a new one.

So we had Pebbles, Mickey, Madonna, Meesha, etc. In my memory, we never have had more than one simultaneously. So the sixth member of the family has always been a dog.

Our latest is Tyra, a crossbreed of a pincher and a dachshund, so you can just imagine a pretty small face in an elongated body. She is family in many ways. Every morning when we get up, she'll be the first to greet us, jumping off the couch and fawning all over us. You'll have to cuddle her or else she'll never leave you alone.

THE AUTHOR and Tyra

Family 'driver'

When my sister would be picked up from work in Eastwood, Tyra would insist on tagging along as she enjoyed the ride. There was a time when she sneaked her way into the front seat while my dad was driving, raised her paws to the wheel and drove the car (at least, it looked like she was driving the car).

Tyra shows no favoritism. I think she loves us all equally. Of course, if you feed her all the time, you'll get the upper edge. Even my mom who often threatened to give her away every time she made a mess soon succumbed to her charm. Now, it is my mom who'd go to lengths in bringing home bones for our dog. There are days and nights when we would all sit around the living room and we'd never get tired of playing with her. Tyra definitely has brought our family a little closer.

Besides bringing us immeasurable joy, Tyra makes herself of use in catching rats, cockroaches and, sometimes, even flies. When we recently went to Laguna with our cousins for the weekend, we found security in Tyra who guarded the house. Though she is just a cute little thing, she has a mean bark and the spunk to go after dogs or cats twice her size.

I often engage in friendly banter with my best friend, who likewise owns a dog—a Pomeranian. One night she told me that her dog is trilingual—understanding Chinese as well as English and Filipino. Of course, I couldn't leave it at that and countered that my dog could read the newspaper. Though that might seem like a bit of an exaggeration, to my defense, Tyra always perches on top of the daily news, looking at the papers for well over an hour. We'd have many more nights like these boasting about our dogs, so we simply decided to settle the score on a doubles match in badminton—she and Pompom versus Tyra and me! Bring it on. May the best dog win.

Loving

Having a dog also entails responsibility. You have to feed her, to accompany her to the vet to get her shots, to bathe her, to clean her mess and, above all, to love her. As my dad would always say, "*Parang tao din yan.*" It is as much a financial investment as an emotional one.

Believe me, it is painful to lose a dog. Before Tyra, we had a Japanese spitz that developed polio. After a few weeks, it became obvious that we could not take care of her. It was the most difficult decision to give her away to a neighbor who was adept at raising dogs. We cried for many days, as if we had just given away a child. We realized that the sixth member of the family was just as important as the first five.

I know this is an article that is supposed to defend the merits of a pet dog over and above a pet cat. But my only encounter with cats is with stray ones. Suffice it to say that since a dog does not have nine lives, it is more precious.

She's embarrassed to show how much she cares for a friend

CHATROOM

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mahino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I have been maintaining friendship with someone from another city for more than a year now. We were good friends before but for the past six or so months, I have noticed that he has not been quite the same.

Although he mentioned once late last year that he was going through something and I was the only one he could talk to, the irony was he never talked to me about any problem until last week. But the great confusion was, it was about a different situation that, as he claimed, resulted in leaving his guy group behind which only happened recently, so he had no one to talk to again. But he never implied any other problems going on last year except for some miscommunication between us.

He already confessed about a relationship problem. He said it was my company he had been missing all this time and the girl was just really in a bad family situation, therefore, his action of "just trying to help" was "justifiable."

But whenever we talk on the phone, I still sense something is off, though it's obvious that I have all his time now since he doesn't stop bugging me alternately with his old ways of trying to be desirable and off-the-mark apologies. Even if I have assured him of my friendship and understanding, he says my reluctance to believe in some of his stories sends him in some state of anxiety.

So my question is, will it be okay if I write to one of his guy friends to tell me what's really happening with him? I know he will not be happy when he finds this out, but our conversations are just going around in circles, and his inability to fully accept guilt certainly doesn't help. I have the choice of not doing anything at all for my own peace of mind, but I'm still concerned about him especially since he is kind of sensitive and he has no immediate family with him.

GRETA

If the time came when you finally discover what your friend's problems really are, that would be because he voluntarily opened up to you.

I understand your concern for him as his good friend, but I guess your friend has his own reasons for keeping things to himself for the meantime and you should respect that. Snooping around via his guy friends is the last thing I'd advise you to do—if you did that and it backfired, as I am sure it will, you might end up with one angry friend.

Just continue to be there for your friend whenever he needs to talk to someone, even if all that he would tell you are unbelievable. Be honest with him in telling that you appreciate his trust, but that you'd also appreciate it more if he'd tell you the truth.

Continue what you've been doing all along—which is listening to him and reassuring him of your friendship—but don't be afraid either to say what you think about what's going on, that your conversations just seem to be going around in circles, that you do care for him which is why you don't fall for his dramatics hook, line and sinker. Do whatever you think a good friend should do. But don't ever play dirty, i.e. going to his guy friends and asking them about him, because that would be out the line.

SEP

The thing about leaving is you've never really done it until you've succeeded in cultivating a new life in a new place. Some people are able to shoot away into another galaxy of existence from their families, living *la vida loca y independencia*, not to mention shopping for the grocery, taking home half the plastic bags.

I'm tempted to write about how men want to have their cake and eat it, too, but in this case, who is hanging on to the past? Aren't there enough people in this world to meet, fall in love with, or maybe ruin their lives? What I'm saying is that you two sound like you like each other and you're hawking all over him, watching his every move under the guise of keeping friends, when you have absolutely nothing to contribute to each other's growth and newness.

Why don't you just ask him to be your boyfriend and get it over with. Either the idea sells or not. Either way, I'm sure both of you are just waiting for it to be brought up and to get it over with. If it doesn't work out—well, this could be the beginning of a beautiful friendship. If all you're concerned about is saving face, then what you need is damage control.

Write him a letter, seal it but don't send it right away. Sentimentality increases in value like wine. The longer you withhold it from sunlight, the more serious it becomes. Write about how you've always wanted an honest relationship but you were too embarrassed to show how much you really cared for him.

CARLOS

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The numbers are encouraging. Everyday, more people heed our call to help save countless trees and preserve the environment. They bring us all kinds of newspapers, broadsheets and tabloids, which we use to make our future issues. You, too, can help us. Together, we may reap the good fruits of what we sow.

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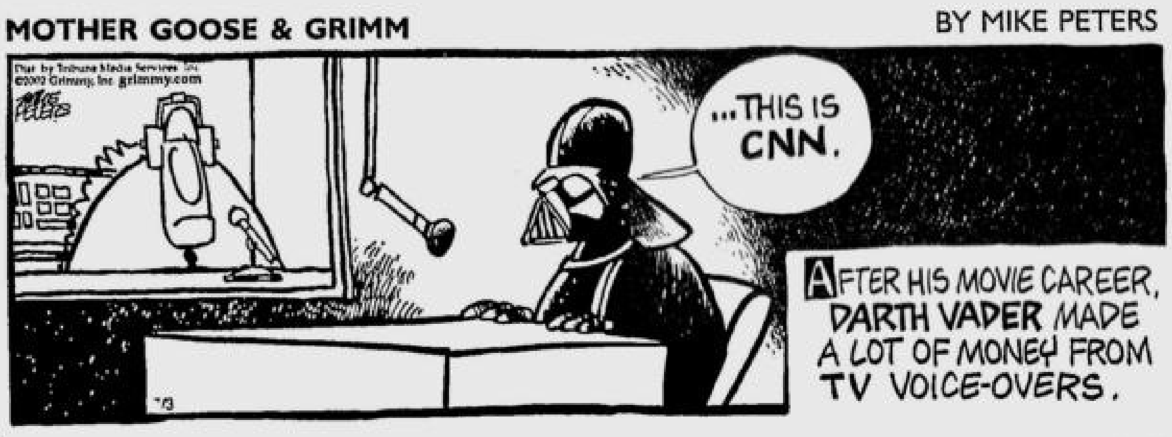
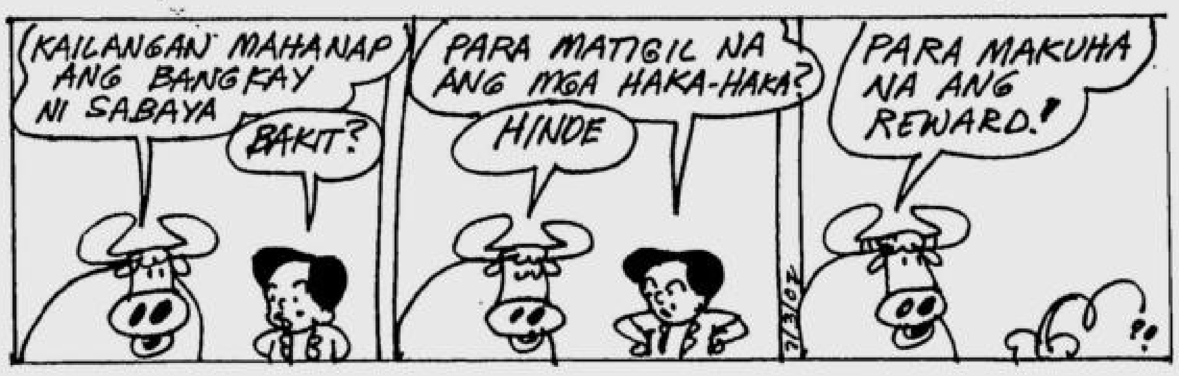
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


Dist. by Tribune Media Services Inc.
©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
...THIS IS CNN.
AFTER HIS MOVIE CAREER, DARTH VADER MADE A LOT OF MONEY FROM TV VOICE-OVERS.
7/3

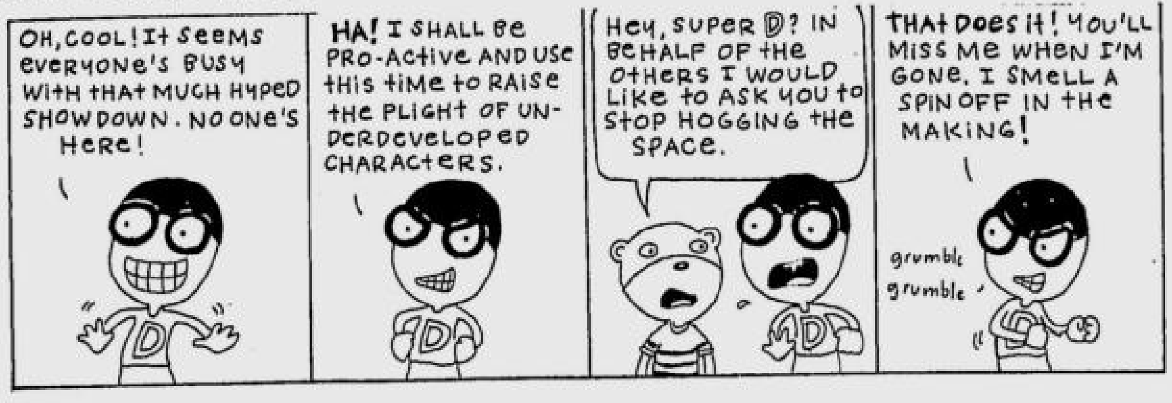
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAILANGAN MAHANAP ANG BANGKAY NI SABAYA
BAKIT?
PARA MATIGIL NA ANG MGA HAKA-HAKA?
HINDE
PARA MAKUHA NA ANG REWARD!
7/3/02

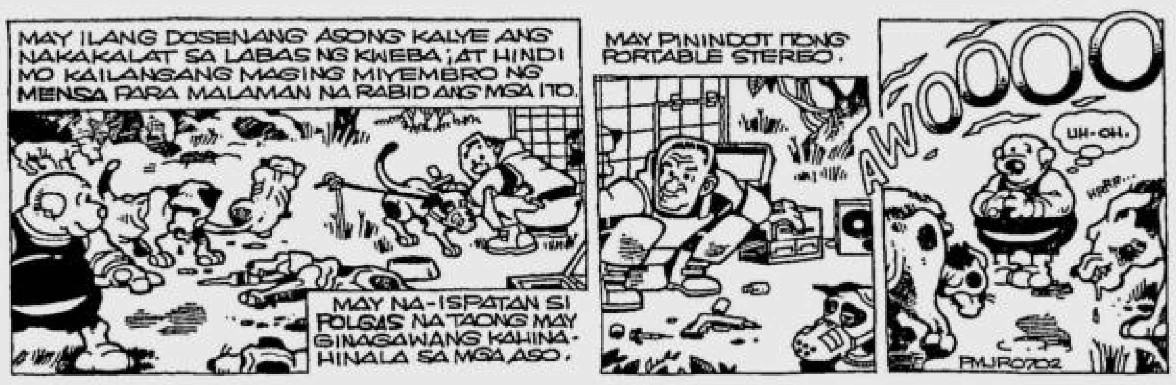
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH, COOL! It seems everyone's busy with that much hyped showdown. No one's here!
HA! I shall be pro-active and use this time to raise the plight of underdeveloped characters.
Hey, super D? In behalf of the others I would like to ask you to stop hogging the space.
That does it! You'll miss me when I'm gone. I smell a spin off in the making!
grumble grumble

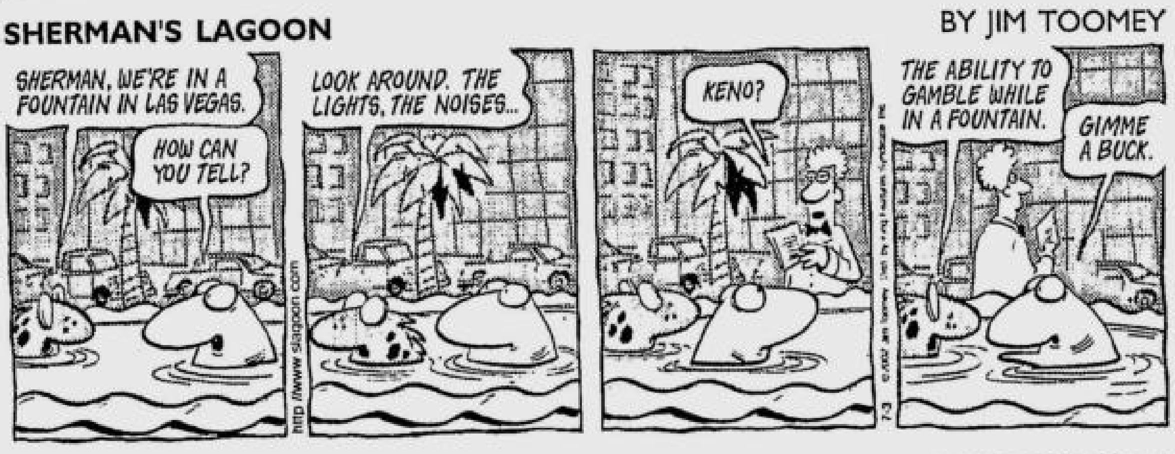
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


MAY ILANG DOSENANG ASONG KALYE ANG NAKAKALAT SA LABAS NG KWEBA; AT HINDI MO KAILANGANG MAGING MIYEMBRO NG MENSA PARA MALAMAN NA RABID ANG MGA ITO.
MAY NA-ISPATAN SI POLGAS NA TAONG MAY GINAGAWANG KAHINA-HINALA SA MGA ASO.
MAY PININDOT ITONG PORTABLE STEREO.
AWOOOOO
UH-OH.
PMJR0702

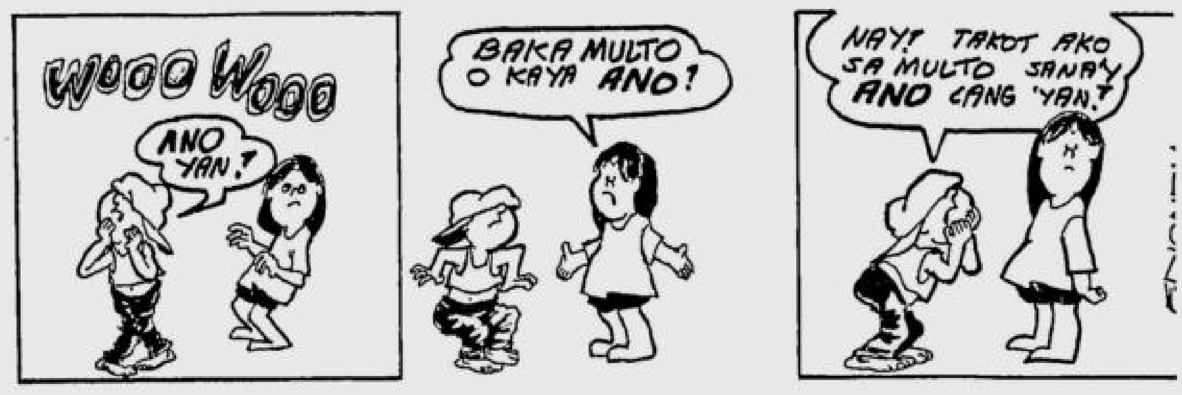
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


SHERMAN, WE'RE IN A FOUNTAIN IN LAS VEGAS.
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
LOOK AROUND. THE LIGHTS, THE NOISES...
KENO?
THE ABILITY TO GAMBLE WHILE IN A FOUNTAIN.
GIMME A BUCK.
http://www.slagoon.com
7-3

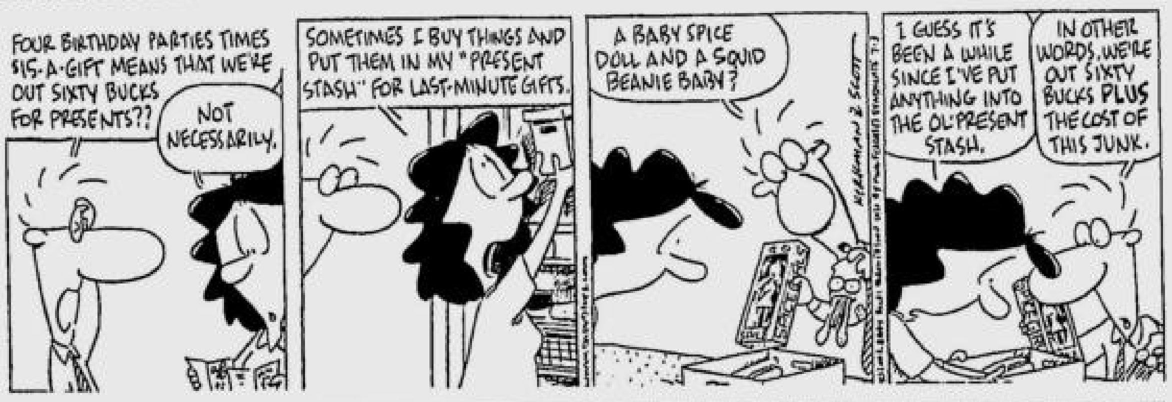
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


WOOO WOOO
ANO YAN?
BAKA MULTO O KAYA ANO!
NAY! TAKOT AKO SA MULTO SANA'Y ANO LANG 'YAN?

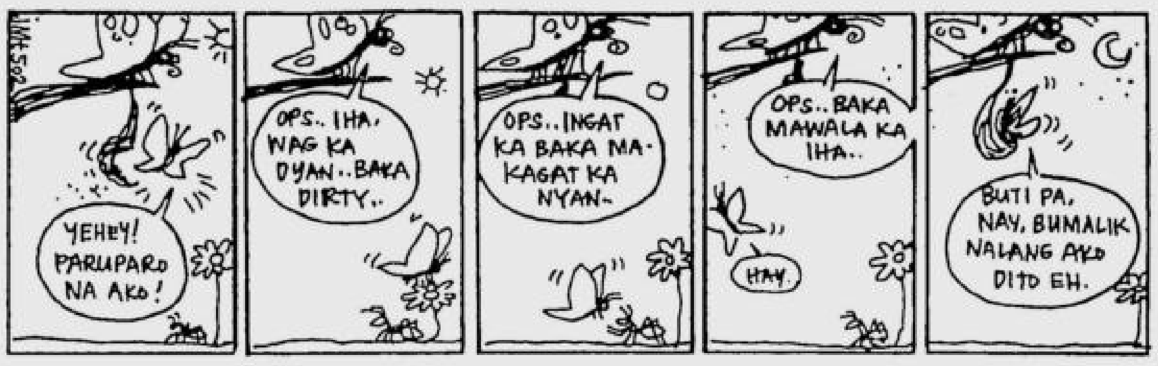
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


FOUR BIRTHDAY PARTIES TIMES $15-A-GIFT MEANS THAT WE'RE OUT SIXTY BUCKS FOR PRESENTS??
NOT NECESSARILY.
SOMETIMES I BUY THINGS AND PUT THEM IN MY "PRESENT STASH" FOR LAST-MINUTE GIFTS.
A BABY SPICE DOLL AND A SQUID BEANIE BABY?
I GUESS IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE PUT ANYTHING INTO THE OL' PRESENT STASH.
IN OTHER WORDS, WE'RE OUT SIXTY BUCKS PLUS THE COST OF THIS JUNK.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


YEHEY! PARUPARO NA AKO!
OPS.. IHA, WAG KA DYAN.. BAKA DIRTY..
OPS.. INGAT KA BAKA MAKAGAT KA NYAN..
OPS.. BAKA MAWALA KA IHA..
HAY.
BUTI PA, NAY, BUMALIK NALANG AKO DITO EH.

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tom Cruise, Pete Fountain, Montel Williams

Happy Birthday: Your keen memory will help you retain knowledge that comes your way this year. You will be looking for advancement and will do whatever is necessary in order to achieve your goals. Your interest in philosophy, foreign culture and educational pursuits will lead you in a new direction. Your numbers are 9, 14, 22, 34, 44, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Obstacles may deter you from getting ahead today. Work by yourself and you will accomplish the most. There will be plenty of action at home but it may not be what you are trying to achieve.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You may have to contend with someone who is not likely to bend to your whims today. Stubbornness on your part will only make matters worse.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): The more you do to interact with others the better you'll feel about yourself and the things you do. Make an effort to help someone today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone you least expect may surprise you today. Don't be too quick to agree with everyone else. Someone who is depending on you may question you if you don't finish your work.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may enjoy speaking your mind today but someone may use what you say against you. If you are quick to counteract any opposition you face it is likely that you will come out on top.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be too willing to pay for others. You should probably spend on yourself or your home and not on someone who is always asking you to help him or her out financially.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Partnerships may not be as they appear. Rely on yourself and you won't be disappointed. Stop waiting for someone else to do the work. You have the added discipline so put it to good use.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be on the rampage when it comes to getting a job done. Don't let your health suffer because you are pushing yourself too hard. Travel may be expensive but it will be to your benefit.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make plans to do something special with someone you enjoy. Your creative imagination will be racing so don't let it go to waste. Put your ideas down on paper.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Focus on what needs to be done around the house. Partnerships may be difficult if you haven't held up your end of the bargain. Be prepared to compromise.

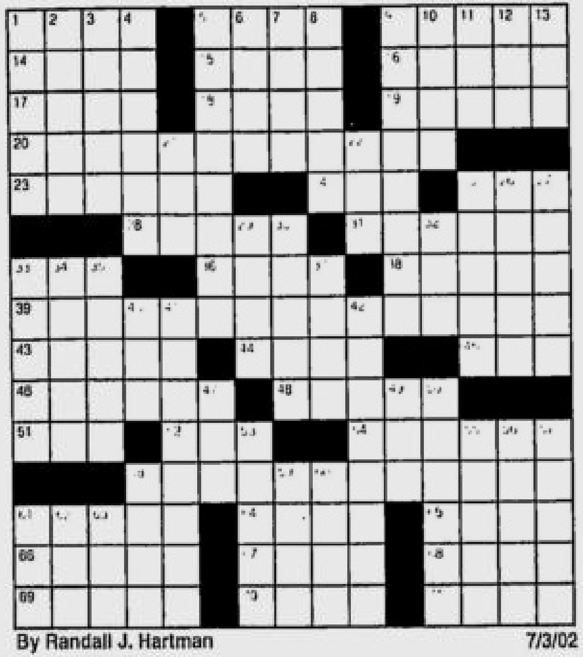
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your cool and detached attitude will come in handy when you want to find out about someone or something that is not readily available to you. Someone you work with may be trying to take advantage.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your interest in the past will lead to answers you've been searching for. The more you discover about your family and your childhood the better you will understand why you react the way you do.

Birthday Baby: You will be concerned with what's just and fair. You will be generous to your siblings and close friends. You will have an interest in foreign cultures and travel.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Randall J. Hartman
Escondido, CA
7/3/02

ACROSS
1 Reindeer herder
5 Faucets
9 "Columbo" star Falk
14 Skin-cream ingredient
15 Pointed arch
16 Dancing Castle
17 Pinochle display
18 Brick-lined oven
19 Pleasantly stimulating
20 Golden Gate, e.g.?
23 Like hot stuff?
24 Wind dir.
25 Two-time U.S. Open champ
28 Gives off
31 Tie
33 Links org.
36 Punch
38 Furious
39 Mount Elbert greeting?
43 Bandleader Shaw
44 Very in Paris
45 Bigwig in D.C.
46 Itty-bitty
48 Longstanding quarrels
51 Last word
52 "And I Love __"
54 Detect
58 Embassy ceremony?
61 Israeli desert
64 Economist Smith
65 Earring setting
66 Spectacle spot
67 Puccini heroine
68 Author Connell
69 Microsoft digital switches?
70 Understands
71 Dispatch

DOWN
1 "The Silence of the __"
2 Red-light state
3 Infantile paralysis
4 Hawk wares
5 Policy of minimal effort
6 Exchange premium
7 Ill-gotten riches
8 Feel
9 Restaurant where food is thrown up?
10 Buffalo lake
11 Pinochle king-topper
12 Our lang.
13 "The Bridge of San Luis __"
21 Tourmaline or amethyst
22 Corp. abbr.
25 Linda or Dale
26 Shop tool
27 Drinking vessel
29 Short beep
30 Dandruff
32 "Exodus" hero
33 Chatter away
34 Bridge expert Charles
35 Played a part
37 Lower joint
40 Family
41 Talmud schools
42 Tidal waves
47 Still
49 Spanish two
50 Distinctive mannerisms
53 Does pipe cleaning
55 Tom T. Hall hit
56 Castro, e.g.
57 Correct text
58 Lacoste of tennis
59 Garfield's pal
60 David Bowie hit
61 Pester
62 Time period
63 Retrieve

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

J	A	C	K	S	■	C	A	P	P	■	M	R	E	D
E	F	L	A	T	■	O	R	E	O	■	E	E	R	O
S	T	O	N	E	■	M	E	A	L	■	S	P	A	N
S	E	V	E	N	Y	E	A	R	I	T	C	H	■	■
E	R	E	■	C	O	T	S	■	T	I	A	R	A	S
■	■	■	P	I	G	■	■	P	I	L	L	A	G	E
I	R	M	A	L	A	D	O	U	C	E	■	S	A	D
N	E	O	N	■	■	O	W	N	■	■	F	E	T	E
C	A	V	■	B	I	L	L	Y	W	I	L	D	E	R
A	L	I	M	E	N	T	■	■	I	C	Y	■	■	■
S	M	E	A	R	S	■	T	U	R	K	■	R	C	A
■	■	S	O	M	E	L	I	K	E	I	T	H	O	T
A	N	T	I	■	R	E	B	A	■	E	R	O	D	E
P	E	A	S	■	T	I	E	S	■	S	I	D	E	S
B	E	R	T	■	S	A	T	E	■	T	O	A	S	T

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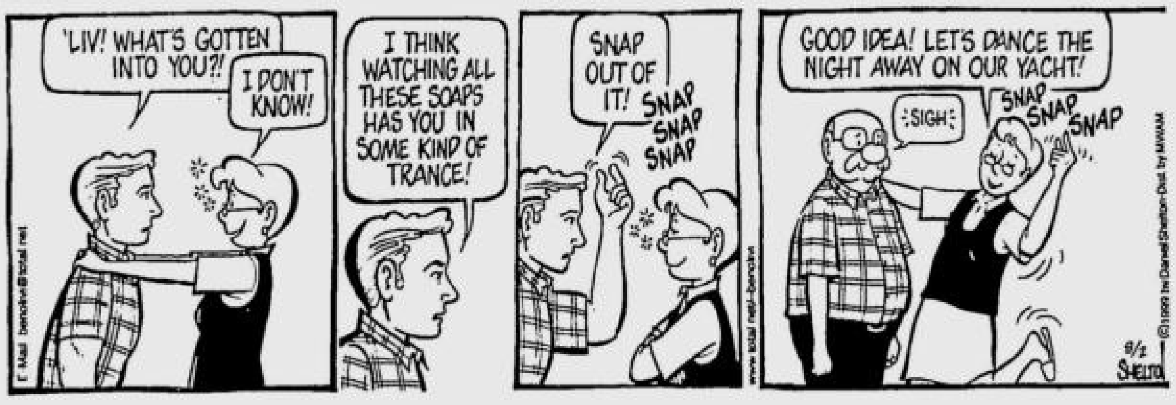
7/3/02

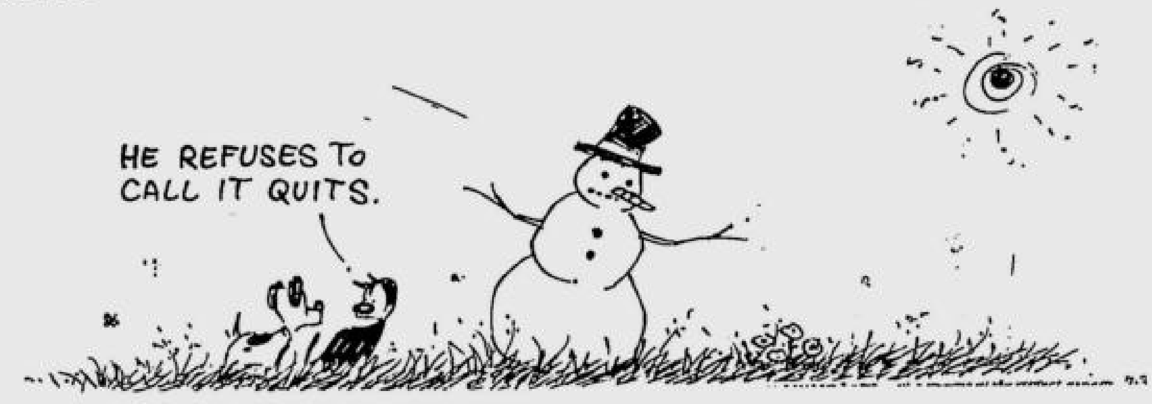
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


'LIV! WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?!
I DON'T KNOW!
I THINK WATCHING ALL THESE SOAPS HAS YOU IN SOME KIND OF TRANCE!
SNAP OUT OF IT!
SNAP SNAP SNAP
GOOD IDEA! LET'S DANCE THE NIGHT AWAY ON OUR YACHT!
:SIGH:
SNAP SNAP SNAP
SHELTON

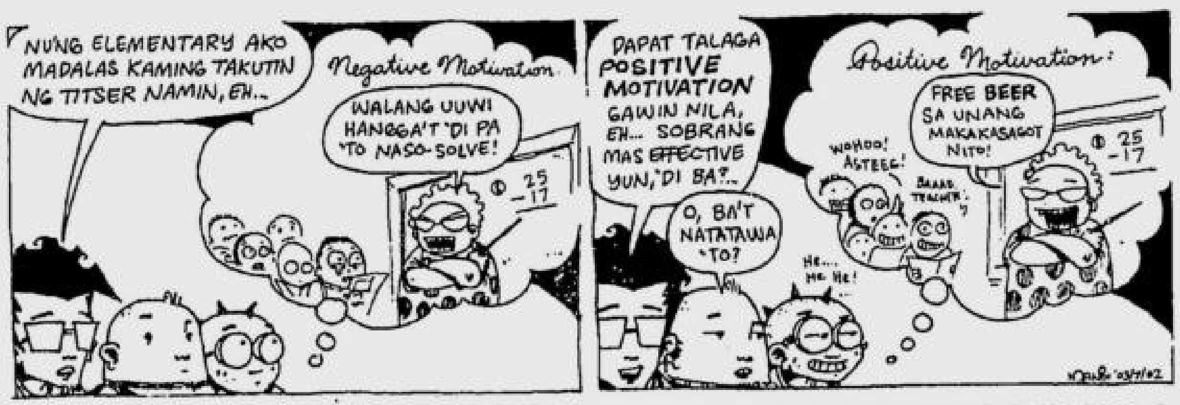
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


HE REFUSES TO CALL IT QUITS.

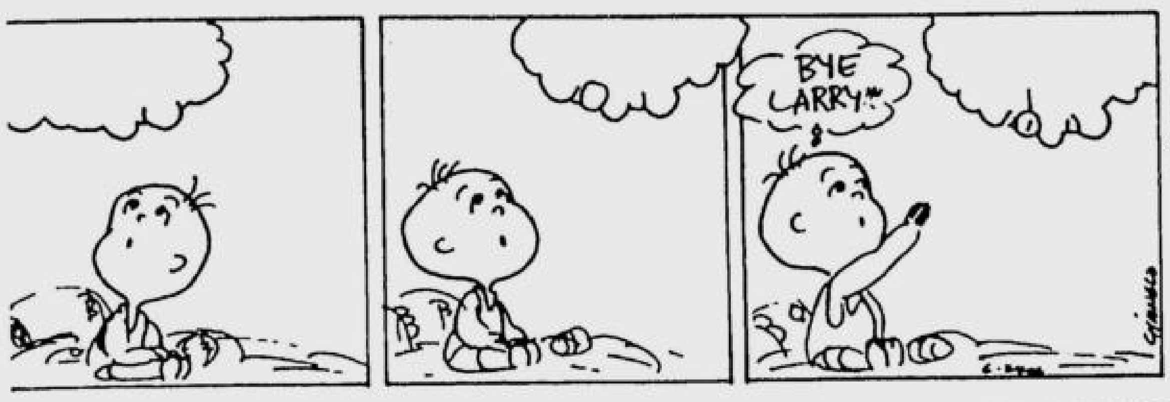
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


NUNG ELEMENTARY AKO MADALAS KAMING TAKUTIN NG TITSER NAMIN, EH..
Negative Motivation
WALANG UUWI HANGGA'T 'DI PA 'TO NASO-SOLVE!
① 25 −17
DAPAT TALAGA POSITIVE MOTIVATION GAWIN NILA, EH... SOBRANG MAS EFFECTIVE YUN, 'DI BA?..
O, BA'T NATATAWA 'TO?
HE... HE HE!
Positive Motivation:
FREE BEER SA UNANG MAKAKASAGOT NITO!
WOHOO! ASTEEG!
① 25 −17

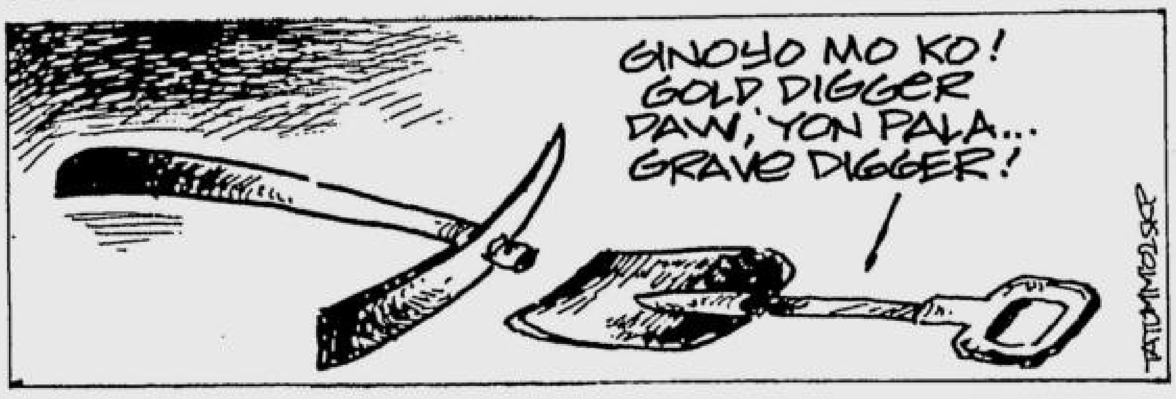
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO



TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


GINOYO MO KO! GOLD DIGGER DAW, 'YON PALA... GRAVE DIGGER!
TATUMOSER

Pet trivia

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

TRIVIA. Useless facts. Enough said. Here are a few:

We all know that snakes crawl because they don't have legs. But that wasn't always the case. Snakes have, in fact, evolved from lizards and so used to move around on legs. The lizards gradually lost the legs from lack of use and their claws grew smaller with each generation. Eventually, a lizard was born without legs and with only two claws—this was the first snake. But even those two claws were no longer visible in those that followed later.

* * *

They may be known to most people as the "see no evil, hear no evil, speak no evil" monkeys. But those three wise monkeys go by the Japanese names of Mizaru (see no evil), Mikazaru (hear no evil) and Mazaru (speak no evil).

* * *

Chess enthusiasts may find this interesting. After a sea horse dies, its head is often preserved. It is then fitted on a wooden base and becomes the knight in chess. Checkmate!

* * *

A cat was born in Germany with five legs, six paws and 30 toes. Fortunately it doesn't have to get a pedicure for those toes.

* * *

China is not only the world's most populous country. It is also home to 10 million horses and 3 billion chickens.

* * *

Hairballs can kill rabbits. Since rabbits cannot vomit, hairballs often have to come out at the other end. Hair poop is an early warning sign that a rabbit suffers from intestinal blockage.

* * *

On Jan. 14, 1978, volunteers from the British army who were filling in for firemen were asked by an elderly lady in South London to help retrieve her cat stuck on a tree. They brought the cat down with almost no effort only to run over it as they drove back to the fire station.

Do you know the three monkeys' Japanese names?

* * *

It seems that it's not the threat of cancer that makes the Marlboro Man a less than successful endorser in Hong Kong. Apparently, the Hong Kong people, who like to think of themselves as cultured and urbane, don't exactly find horse riding under the hot sun that appealing.

* * *

Here's something straight out of a fairytale book: Disneyland has hundreds of cats running around the park at night to catch mice. So why is Mickey Mouse still alive?

* * *

If a horse in a statue has both front legs in the air, the person riding it died in battle. A horse with one front leg in the air means the person died as a result of wounds received in battle. But if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.

* * *

Wondering why big cats roar while little kitties can only purr? Big cats can't purr when inhaling because of their cartilaginous hyoid bone, which is attached to the vocal cord. It, however, allows them to roar. The little kitties, on the other hand, have a bony hyoid bone allowing them to purr while inhaling and exhaling, but can't make them roar.

* * *

The largest dog litter ever recorded was on June 19, 1944, when an American foxhound gave birth to 23 little puppies. In the large breed category, however, a Great Dane gave birth in June 1987 to 16 puppies.

* * *

If you look at your old "101 Dalmatians" cartoon and watch closely enough, you'll note that Pongo has 72 spots, Perdita 68, and all the other puppies 32.

Into the canine mind

A Dog's Life by Peter Mayle
Vintage Books, 1996
Available at Powerbooks

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

Peter Mayle
A Dog's Life

THERE'S something about dogs that has always kept us wondering. The way they seem so transfixed on the rhythmic motion of any object, the way they possess superhuman patience when overbearing humans make them play fetch... We seem fascinated enough about man's best friend that we have made them the subject of many a Hollywood movie.

Perhaps the thing about dogs is that they are in many ways human. They have the same motherly instinct on their young, the same patterns of adapting to their environment and similar conflicts to keep themselves occupied. The way we can compare ourselves with man's best friend somehow explains why we hear about dogs turning into heiresses overnight because of rich and well-meaning owners.

"A Dog's Life" is, to put it simply, the biography of Peter Mayle's dog named Boy. Orphaned at an early age, he is given to an abusive owner and is then transferred to the slightly dysfunctional household of the Mayles, whom he fondly refers to as "the management." From being a mangy mongrel forced to hunt bunny rabbits to facing the horrors of being housebroken, Boy recounts in biting with his struggle of survival and his mastery of his owners.

The Mayles' concerns with his personal hygiene leaves Boy disturbed. He recalls his first bath: "*Traumatic* is the only word to describe what happened next: drenched with water, smeared with soap, rinsed and soaped and rinsed again, and that was just the overture. There followed an interminable session with a miniature lawn mower, and then an attack by scissors, snipping away at ears, mustache, tail and other sensitive regions. The final indignity was a dusting with powder that smelled like a mixture of Evening in Paris and weed killer."

Francophile Peter Mayle delves into the psyche of the four-legged household favorite

Readers of this book may look forward to seeing the human species from a four-legged perspective. "People who live with dogs," Boy says, "like a full turnout when they come home after an absence. It makes them feel loved and appreciated. It can also make them feel slightly guilty at having left their faithful companions alone. This, in turn, can lead to what they call 'treats' and what I regard as conscience payments to make up for willful neglect."

Part of the appeal of "A Dog's Life" is when you take the most basic elements of Boy's story and you relate them with man—adaptation, survival, conflict, triumph and love. Then again, the rich complexities of human nature cannot be fully explained in a single book, and writing about the deepest secrets of the universe is not exactly your typical Peter Mayle book.

This lack of depth is probably the downside to this bestial memoir. The book is witty and entertaining, yes, but it's not the type that's going to win a Pulitzer. This light book is for the average reader to sit down with a glass of champagne and read. In reading it, the reader may become more observant of what goes on in the minds of their pets. After all, dogs didn't get the tag "man's best friend" for nothing.

Choosing the perfect shade for one's skin tone

Make Over 911

Kinny Salas

COSMETIC companies have made their mark over the years. In 1965, Clinique made everyone aware of the three-step "cleanse, tone and moisturize" skin care program that some people are still fanatical about today. The same company introduced the double matte face powder that led to the production of other powder foundations. MAC reintroduced matte lipsticks and made "Spice" lip liner a must-have in all cosmetic bags. Prescriptives is famous for the exact shade foundation for every skin tone.

There is one cosmetic line for women (depends on how you look at it), in particular, that revolutionized the beauty and fashion industry's view about makeup: Bobbi Brown. Before she became famous, the beauty ideal was very much Caucasian, so women of color bought pink foundations and the whitest powder they could lay their hands on. Back then, the best-selling foundation shade in the Philippines was Ivory, which ladies slathered on their necks to even out their skin color. Now, thanks to her, women no longer feel inferior when buying base in shades of honey, beige, almond and chestnut. Women get it now—beautiful skin is not light colored, it is smooth textured.

BB's goal was to streamline every woman's cosmetic bag and have only colors and shades they would need and wear all year round, hence the name Bobbi Brown Essentials. BB is known for high-quality, superior performance in yellow-toned foundation (12 shades), concealer (8 shades) and powder (6 shades, loose or pressed) and brown-based colors for lips, cheeks and eyes. This woman made me proud to be Asian and happy about my yellow-toned skin. Her philosophy is all about enhancing an individual's beauty, and not trying to be something you are not. Her goal: loving who you are.

Her makeup line is finally here and exclusively available at Rustan's department store. Any woman, regardless of skin color and race, will be able to use at least 50 percent of the available shades for eyes, lips and cheek colors. I went home with five items to try out—1. Stick foundation (P1,800)—highly recommended. It's creamy but does not give a greasy finish. It gives an ideal texture for concealer. It's suitable for all skin types except the very dry. It gives medium coverage so if you have great skin, this may be too heavy for you. For normal to dry skin, you won't need powder. 2. Loose powder in soft sand—goes on smooth and silky. It cuts shine without feeling heavy and grainy. 3. Shimmer Wash Eye Shadow in Raisin—a sheer purplish brown color, not as boring as brown but more subtle than black or gray. It's still neutral but goes on silky smooth. 4. Blush in Sand Pink—for light to tanned skin. It gives a matte finish and goes on evenly. Applied lightly, it looked very natural on me as if I exercised and got flushed. 5. Lipstick in Tea Rose—the texture was creamy but the shade was too bright for me. For those who like pink, I suggest Roseberry and Toasted Pink.

Bobbi Brown's foundation guide—she has 12 shades in all. The most important makeup is the foundation. Aside from being the right formula, it is crucial that it disappears into your skin so it is not obvious. The right color is everything, so Bobbi's bonus is this guide to selecting our perfect shade.

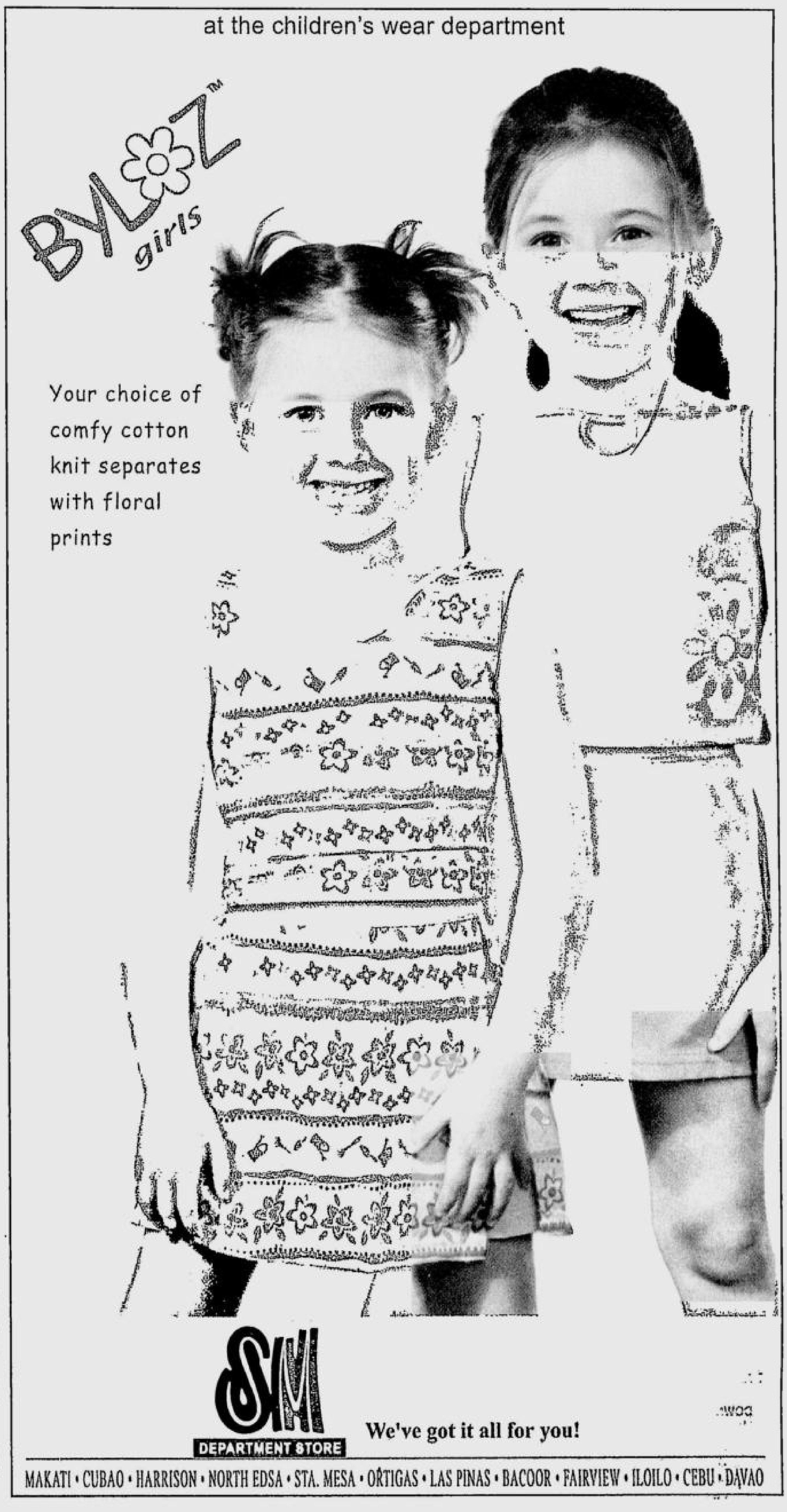
1. Porcelain: the fairest of skin tones (natural redheads and pale blondes)
2. Warm Ivory: very pale skin (Caucasian and very light mestiza and Chinese/Japanese)
3. Sand: light skin (Caucasians, Chinese, Japanese, mestizas)
4. Beige: medium skin (still appears light but tans easily)
5. Natural: tan skin
6. Warm Natural: tan to deep tan skin
7. Honey: light golden skin
8. Golden: medium to deep golden skin
9. Almond: medium to dark skin
10. Walnut: dark skin
11. Chestnut: rich, dark skin
12. Espresso: deep dark skin with blue undertones

When does one use a toner and an astringent? I have acne prone skin and some dermas tell me to use astringent, while others say it's bad and I should use a toner. I am so confused.

ENZO

Toners are advised for people who have normal to dry and sensitive skin. Astringents, on the other hand, are reserved for those with oily and acne prone skin. However, if you are undergoing acne treatments such as Retinoic acid, AHA or BHA, your skin becomes sensitive and dry so a toner is better for you. Astringents are meant to remove excess oils, thus there is alcohol in it that will cause sensitive skin to sting and dry out. People who peel will not have a problem with excess oil clogging your pores, so astringents are not necessary. I have very oily skin but switched to a toner when I hit 30 because I find astringents to be too strong, and the drying effect caused dry dead skin to clog my pores, leading me to break out. There are alcohol-free toners for oily skin out there, like tea tree cleanser from Bench's Prescribe and The Body Shop. Neutrogena, L'Oreal and Extraderm have alcohol-free toners as well that benefit the greasiest of skin.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Make Over 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax at 897-4805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An intelligent pet that doesn't even have to be fed

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

IN THE LATE '90s, virtual pets became a fad. Students in Japan were even reported to have committed suicide after their "pets" died. Another nearly killed the household help for failing to feed his "pet." These people went gaga over "pets" that only used up batteries and their time without giving anything in return except eyestrain.

"STAND still!"

"ONE-two-three march!"

You can command Aibo to take a picture by simply saying: 'Take a picture'

The pets, characters in game watches, had to be fed, bathed and played with electronically.

Then Sony introduced Aibo, the electronic dog. The dog never grows physically, but becomes a very intelligent pet. It can recognize the names given by its owner, who can encourage or discourage them. It responds when greeted and can answer questions "Like how old are you?" or "Are you alright?" You can also command Aibo to take a picture of what he's looking at by simply saying: "Take a picture." You can make Aibo sit down, stand up, kick the ball etc. Aibo can imitate your voice or reply in his own language. It can also communicate with other Aibos. Other commands it will obey are: "Let's dance," "Pose for me," and "Karate chop."

Last July 1, a new generation of enhanced Aibos debuted online, but will not be available in retail stores until July 15. The new additions to the Aibo family are ERS-210A and ERS-220A. The new Aibos were specially designed for academic institutions and programming enthusiasts who want to create new functionality for the Aibo platform, which comes with the new OPEN-R SDK, a software development tool set. And with its faster clock speed of 384 MHz, double the previous speed of 192 MHz, the new versions will be able to respond more quickly and process cues from its environment for double the fun.

Unfortunately, the new Aibos will not be available in the Philippine market for a while. But who knows? Maybe one day, we could have our own electronic "Bantay" to play with.

Email the author at gilesaquino@edsamail.com.ph

"POSE for me!"

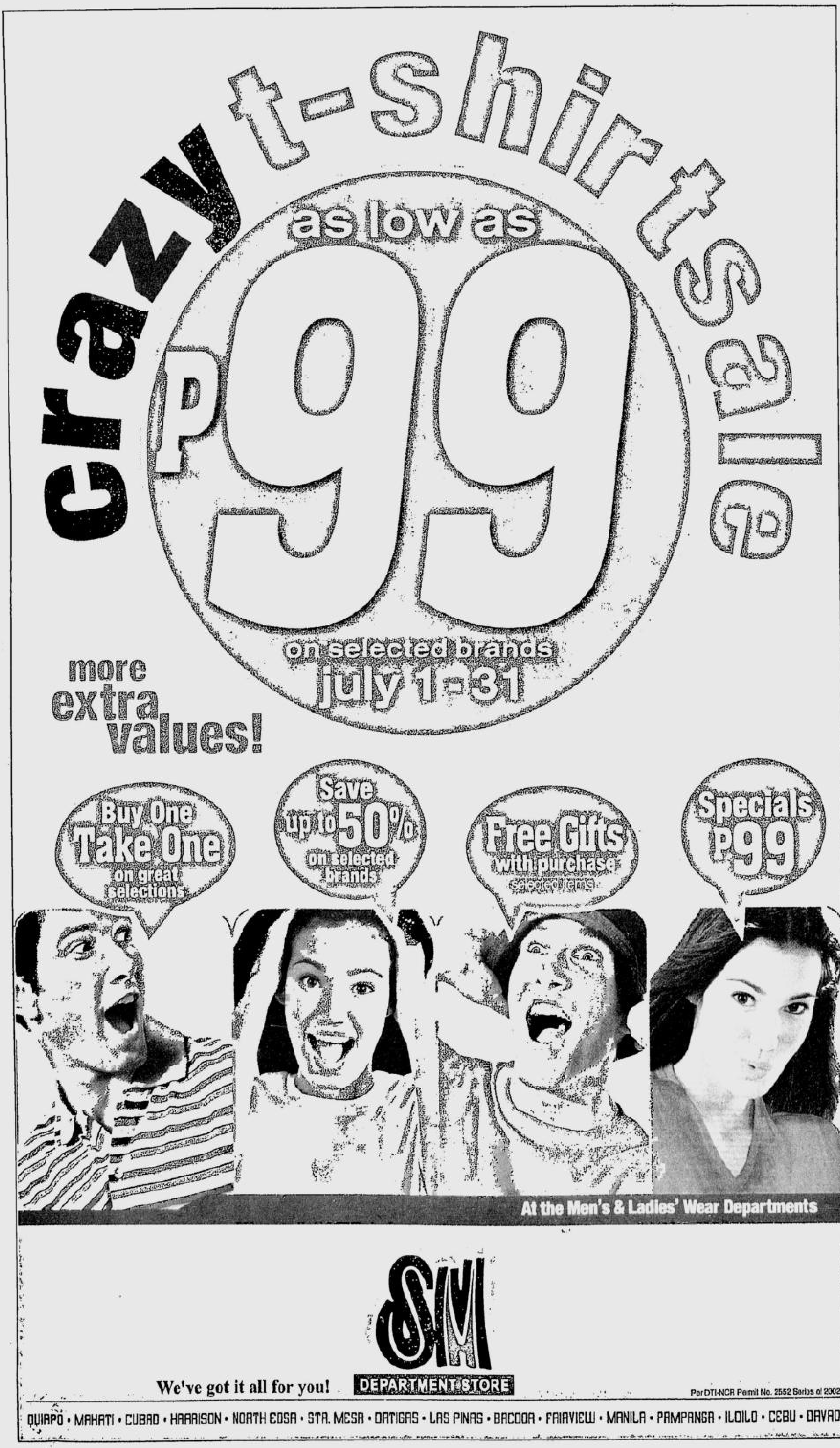
Concert and fashion show to raise funds for animal welfare

WHAT event brings together music, fashion, people and...pets?

Head to the Eastwood City on Saturday, July 6, for a concert and a fashion show for a good cause. Together with Sari-Sari and Smart Communications, 2bU! holds "2bU! Rocks the Ramp," a concert cum fashion show for the benefit of the Animal Rehabilitation Center (PARC) of the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS).

PARC, located in Marikina and leased to PAWS by Meralco, is an animal shelter, the first in the country. PAWS is a non-profit organization that relies on sponsors, volunteers, and kind souls to promote animal welfare.

"2bU! Rocks the Ramp" starts at 9 p.m., with performances by Mojofly, Itchyworms, and Rivermaya. Bid for dates with the members of Rivermaya and the DJs of RX 93.1 by donating to the animal welfare cause.



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LIFESTYLE

DUNKIN' DONUTS
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Heroes on four legs

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Wonderful stories of heroic dogs exist. And they are true to life

By Armin Adina
PDI Research Department

LASSIE has shown how endearing dogs can be. With her agile feet and extraordinary intelligence, she saves lives, properties and even relationships. Together with another famous canine, Beethoven, Lassie demonstrates the remarkable things dogs can do.

But heroic acts such as Lassie's and Beethoven's not only happen in the fictitious world of the movies and television. Daring dogs do exist in real life.

In the United States, for instance, pets that perform extraordinary deeds are recognized. One of these awards is the annual "Dog of the Year" title which has been given by Heinz Pet Products since 1954.

The first recipient of the award was Tang, a German shepherd that saved the life of a two-year-old girl who climbed the back of a milk truck. Tang blocked the truck's path until the driver discovered the little girl.

Carrying out Tang's tradition this year is an Australian blue heeler named Blue. Blue did something more alarming than stopping a truck—he fought off an alligator which threatened the life of his 85-year-old master, Ruth Gay.

Ruth accidentally fell in an alligator-infested canal and broke her nose and shoulders. Unable to stand up, she shouted for help but instead got the attention of an alligator. Fortunately, Blue also heard the call of his master and immediately came to her rescue. He fought off the reptile in the dark canal and prevented it from getting close to his helpless master. In doing so, the dog suffered numerous injuries including puncture wounds in the stomach. He survived and is now being showered with more love by Ruth and her family.

Local heroes

However, these amazing feats of pets do

HEROES/ p.D2

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8. A customer who chooses to discontinue the Mega Bundle service must call 1 7 1 to deactivate the service before the end of the 1-month trial period. A Service Order Number will be issued to the subscriber as proof of downgrade from the Mega Bundle service to the Caller ID Value Deal worth P79.00 or the Caller ID service worth P75.00. Non-notification will mean continuance of the Mega Bundle service and regular monthly fees of P99.00 will be charged after the trial period based on the letter of agreement signed by the customer during his application.
9. To start the Call Waiting service on your phone, simply press * 7 7 #
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Vanity is for pets, too

Don't be a clueless pet owner. Have your pets groomed and pampered in the beauty salon

Text and photos by Giles Ivan A. Aquino
2bU! Correspondent

BLOW medley!

"IT is definitely not just vanity," said 25-year-old Maria Cristina Margartia Viray-Paras of the Cricket Pet Grooming Shop in Pasig. "You check everything. You check for skin problems, external parasites, so not only *'yung* vanity *pero* the external features of the dog, *lahat 'yun tinitignan mo!*"

Pet grooming has become a burgeoning business, according to Cristina, or Cricket. Her shop has branches in Bacolod, Pampanga and Cebu. In Metro Manila, she will open a second branch on San Francisco Street in Mandaluyong.

The grooming business owes perhaps to wrong pet care. Cricket said Filipino pets are often fed with leftovers, not real pet food. That's where skin and other health problems arise. She explained a pet's skin is more sensitive than human's.

To avoid further problems, the pet lover may want to start with prevention by sending her pet to the grooming shop every month. This is to ensure that the pet is healthy in and out.

For a full grooming, the budget is P450. It covers the cutting of the nails, cleaning of the ears, shaving of the tummy and anal areas, excretion of the anal gland, bath and blow-dry. "The trim is optional because not all pets need haircut," Cricket said.

If we humans have standard cuts, dogs have them, too. Services vary from one pet to another. "Each dog has his own pattern, or what we call the standard," Cricket explained. "We follow the standards given to us by the American Kennel Club. But for the mixed breeds, we have what you call personality trim."

For the personality trim, Cricket distinguishes the most prominent breed in the dog and gives the corresponding trim for it. Unlike humans, pet haircuts don't have trends. "It's just your creativity," Cricket said.

"I NEED this badly!"

Cutting of the nails, cleaning of the ears and bathing are essential. "*Kasi dun mo makikita lahat e, kung may* skin problems *siya*," Cricket said. For her, a dog is well-groomed when it doesn't smell like a dog, the ears don't have black wax, the breath doesn't smell bad, and it doesn't sit and scratch.

The most expensive grooming costs P800. This is usually charged for big dogs and the standard poodle because cutting their hair is more difficult.

Pet peeves

The price does not depend on how rowdy the pets could get. But Cricket has rejected some dogs for being really mean. So how do they handle mean pets? "With big difficulty," she said. "I don't sedate unless needed. And I don't do it myself. I have a resident vet who does it for me. So we try, before we opt for sedation. We put collars and muzzles."

She said that most of the personnel have already been bitten, but not viciously. The bites are usually warning bites; when you pull your hand out, you'll get hurt. "Usually it's the shitzu, the smaller ones that really bite," Cricket said. "They are the meaner ones. The bigger ones aren't."

This shows that patience is required of a pet groomer. "Our patience is quite longer than usual," she said. "*Pero 'yung pasensiya namin sa aso at sa tuta lang. Sa tao iba na 'yon*," she jokingly added.

House grooming

Grooming starts at home. Cricket suggested that you brush the hair of your dog always, whether it be one with long hair or short hair. "It activates their oil glands so they would get shiny. It won't take much of your time," she said. For dogs that have long hair, brushing would take 15-20 minutes. But they should not cut the hair themselves. "*Nagmumukhang* rice terraces *'yung* dog," she said.

CRICKET and her pet

She also suggested that pet owners use pet shampoo and conditioners that are pH-balanced. It is ideal to give the dog a bath each week. Too much bathing will result in dry hair. The dog may also catch cold easily.

If dog biscuits could be eaten by humans, pet shampoos could be used by humans, too—and vice versa. "*Mas maganda kung tayo ang gagamit ng* regular shampoo *nila*," Cricket said. "The smell. *Ang ganda ng buhok mo* after." Take it from the pet-grooming guru herself.

Cricket had completed a four-month California School of Dog Grooming. Most of her equipment is bought from abroad. She personally trains her own staff.

Cricket said owning pets is a big responsibility. But the returns are tremendous. She said pets are affectionate and loving. They can be trusted friends.

Contact Cricket at tel. 637-6861

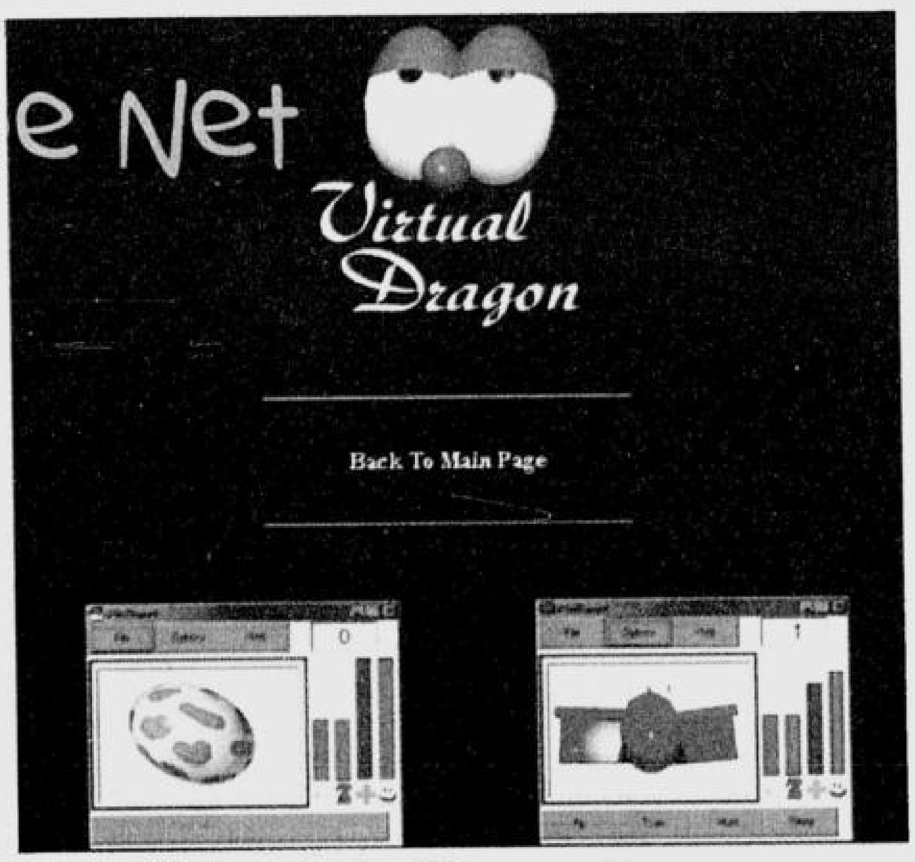
Email the author at gilesaquino@edsamail.com.ph

Pets caught in the Net

In the World Wide Web, pets dominate, including spiders

By Jason Doplito
2bU! Correspondent

ARE you a new proud owner of a Japanese Spitz? Or are you grieving for the death of your little hamster? Do you even care to have a pet at all? Whatever your answer to these questions, surf the Net and be caught in the web of cool pet homepages.



Virtual Dragon

Back To Main Page

Simon's Snake Website

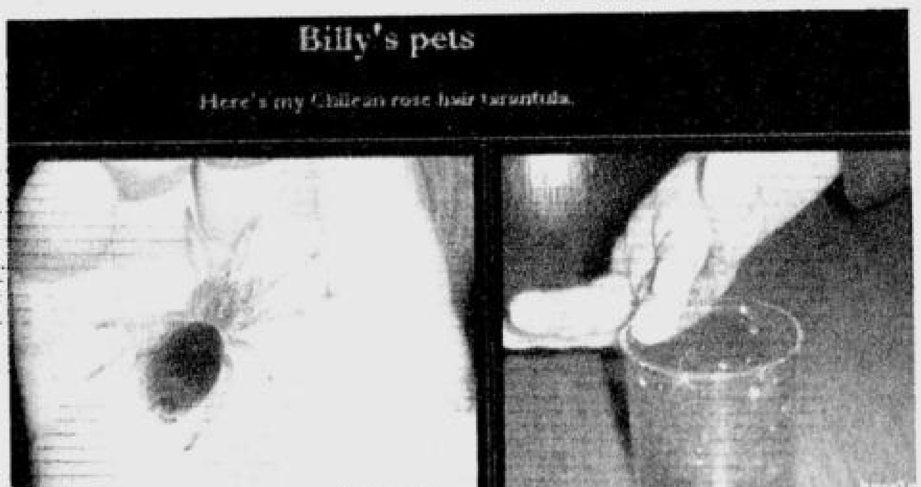
www.simonsnakesite.tripod.com

Anything smaller than six inches will not merit a space in this homepage. Because at Simon's Snake Website, slimy reptiles can grow as long as six feet! Yep, they have them that long at Simon's and even more. It has a section that dispels some scary snake myths (think "Anaconda"). Or tips on how to handle Kingsnake bites ("All you need to do is wash your hand with soap and forget about it," Simon advises). This very informative website guarantees you a perfect score in a snake test (it actually has one). Helpful, isn't it? Thank Simon and Jeremiah, brothers who are in their early teens, for putting all these snake information together.

Billy's Pets

www.freewebz.com/billyspets

"Hi, I'm Billy. I'm nearly three years old..." This is the greeting of this website. At left is a photo of a cute toddler with a water spray at his hand. It continues, "This is me spraying my giant African land snails. I have two millipedes and a Chilean Rose Hair Tarantula." Gulp. What!



Billy's pets

Here's my Chilean rose hair tarantula.

Yep, Billy, or most probably his parent, has put up this site as homage to some unusual pets. And he has photos to prove it. From the tarantula to about a hundred baby snails. However, this site may be a bit too much personal; so personal that you couldn't really care less about his critter pals.

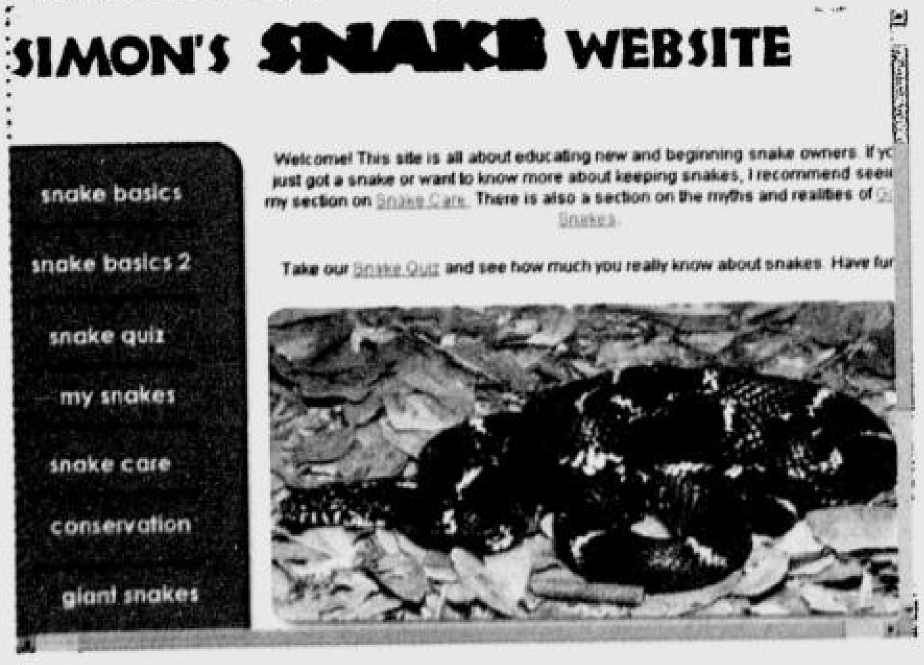
Virtual Dragon

www.pyrames.virtualave.net/dragon

If you envied Hagrid because he was able to pet a dragon, then envy him no more. With this virtual pet, you'd actually get to take care of one. The downloadable "dragon" is ready for adoption. Just go to this website and follow the instructions.

You'll need 10 MB of space if you want to house this medieval creature, though. According to the creators of this program, their pet is different from other virtual creatures on the Net since theirs cannot survive if left unattended for more than 30 minutes. Foster owners would have to feed, train and put to bed the dragon aside from teaching them how to fly. This can be done through the commands available in the downloaded program. Doing this, you can witness the growth of your dragon from a mere egg to a 150-year-old adult. In the process, your dragon will do certain things for you, like sing, perhaps. In other words, you must have lots of time in your hands to put up with a singing dragon and at the same time, change its diapers.

If dragons aren't your cup of tea, go check out www.virtualpets.com for links to other downloadable pets.



SIMON'S SNAKE WEBSITE

Welcome! This site is all about educating new and beginning snake owners. If yo
just got a snake or want to know more about keeping snakes, I recommend seei
my section on Snake Care. There is also a section on the myths and realities of
Snakes.

Take our Snake Quiz and see how much you really know about snakes. Have fu

Andrew's Pet Page

www.petsquirrel.tripod.com

"I can't wait to live on my own so I can have all these," Andrew Watts says in his homepage, referring to his desire to keep chipmunks, hedgehogs and other types of squirrels. So far, what he has are two flying squirrels, four prairie dogs, and several gerbils and rats. His parents must have gone nuts.

Andrew is a member of a webring (that's an association of web page owners) that is devoted to exotic animal enthusiasts. Clearly, squirrels fall under that category.

In this website, expect to find a page devoted to each of Andrew's pets, even those that have died. You'll also see his two flying squirrels, named Scalistl and Rakita. Although the pictures are a bit blurred, you'll get an idea of how cute and small they are.

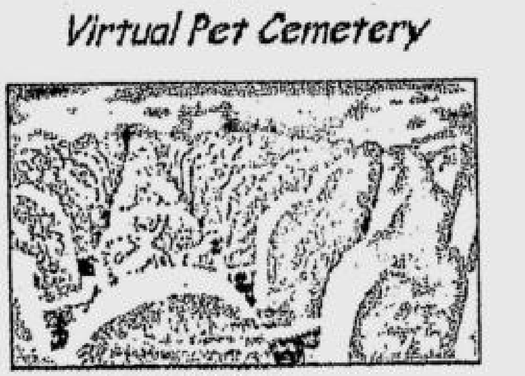
Virtual Pet Cemetery

www.mycemtery.com/pet

If you're depressed over the death of your beloved Skippy and your friends just cannot relate to you, check out this site and be enveloped in a sea of other mourners. Okay, it's not that scary. The Virtual Pet Cemetery is a site devoted to anyone who wants to share the memory of a dead pet. You simply click on a link and write an epitaph for your animal buddy. Or you may opt to relive his memory by writing about your experiences with him. Take this submission from someone named Chuck: "The reason why you meant so much to me was because in 1992 at the age of 18 I was diagnosed with cervical spine cancer and I lost pretty much all of my friends. I was all alone and had no one to talk to. Then I decided to get a dog. I went into the pet store and saw you and said, 'That's the one I want.' I left that day feeling that I might be able to overcome this disease. I don't know why, but all of a sudden I started to feel stronger." His dog, a St. Bernard named Lady Louise, instantly died when she was hit by a school bus.

Due to the volume of mails this website gets, it may take a while for you to actually see your work published though. However, if your pet is still alive and kicking, it doesn't mean you should stray away from this site. The stories that you get to read here may be depressing and absolute tearjerkers, but they make you appreciate your pets more.

Plot 1
Virtual Pet Cemetery



Heroes on four legs

From page D1

not happen exclusively in the US. Proof that heroic spirits (if animals do have one) of pets transcend boundaries and continents is Cindy, a Philippine "*askal*" (*asong kalye* or street dog) whose teeth have even fallen off due to old age.

Grace, a three-year-old darling child, was able to sneak out of the house unnoticed by anybody except Cindy. A watchful pet, Cindy followed the child. However, somewhere along the toddler's way, which was already several houses away and beyond sight of her place, she was met by two unfriendly dogs. Cindy, despite the obvious dental incapacity, tried hard to drive the two unfriendly dogs away from the already-crying Grace until her sisters found her a few minutes later.

Then there's also Marius, a golden retriever. He likes everybody. His masters even thought he could easily be "dognapped" because he was so nice even to strangers. Except to one—the new maid. When he first saw the new househelper, he just kept on barking at her. But this behavior of Marius provoked jokes from her masters, rather than suspicion.

One day, Marius was left at home with the maid. When the masters came back, they discovered the door of their safe jammed and the maid nowhere to be found. Marius' masters later learned from a neighbor that the maid ran out of the house with Marius' bite marks at her ankle. They concluded that Marius' suspicious behavior toward the househelper was a manifestation of the dog's gut feel that the maid was up to no good.

Another noteworthy dog is Bullet, a beagle. One of his masters keeps a poisonous snake, Sawee, also for a pet. Sawee was able to get out of her cage and went missing for almost a week. But Bullet found the reptile in a hole on the ground, thus, preventing it from causing harm to others.

Remarkable

Lois is another "*askal*" with a remarkable tale. Her master went to the bathroom and left her baby Heidi, barely a year old, on the couch. When Heidi was about to fall off the couch, Lois frantically barked, alarming the baby's mother who immediately rushed to the scene and got the baby just in time before she hit the floor.

Another pet story with a tinge of mysticism is Bonita's. Bonita was a four-month-old Japanese spitz owned by Eileen. When Eileen's father fell ill and was bedridden, she felt afraid they might soon lose him. But Bonita, a perfectly healthy dog, suddenly got mysteriously sick while Eileen's father recovered. Bonita was brought to the veterinarian but later died. Eileen and her family believed Bonita offered her life so that their family could keep their father.

These amazing stories of dogs doing extraordinary deeds could perhaps explain why dogs are considered man's best friend. Tales such as these show why it is worth keeping pets. They play with us, offer their companionship, and sometimes even stake their lives for us.

One need not be an animal rights activist to understand the importance of these living creatures. By listening with your heart, you can be a "Doolittle" in your own way. It is through feeling that animals get their message across, and it is also through feeling that we get to appreciate their value

The horror of backyard breeders and puppy mills

Don't ask how much that doggie is in the window.
Rather, ask where it came from

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P49
Before 56
Langhap-Sarap sa Jollibee
bee happy

By Maui V. Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

WE ALL know how many puppies a litter can come up with. Small breeds give birth to smaller numbers (from two to five), while large breeds can produce six to 10 puppies. Now imagine how many of these dogs will get a good home where they can be taken care of and loved.

But taking care of a dog demands serious responsibility. One needs to invest time, money, love, care and patience in a dog. One has to pay for food, supplies, and those notoriously horrible vet bills. Not to mention obedience school and the furniture that may be damaged when one lets loose a puppy in the living room.

Think of it this way. Buying a baby Beagle costs 14,000 bucks. But in reality you'll be spending more than P20,000 on the first month of its stay in your home.

Backyard breeders are people who breed dogs without much knowledge of what they're doing. These people may own a dog that's nowhere near show-quality, but want to make some extra money from breeding his dog. So off he goes to find a bitch or a stud, and soon he has a litter of baby Beagles running around the house.

What does he do with seven new puppies and no knowledge of how to bring them up? Simple. Put them all in a cage until they're big enough to be sold for extra cash.

Dogs are tremendously social animals. They need a lot of interaction with humans and other animals. They also require vaccines and lots of exercise. Backyard breeders don't know this, or if they do, ignore them. These people breed dogs without interest in scientific breeding—they do this merely to fulfill a goal for themselves, mainly financial.

You risk a lot when buying from a backyard breeder. Since he doesn't know much about the breed, he cannot answer your questions. Buying from a backyard breeder encourages him to continue with his puppy mill.

Puppy millers

After World War II in 1965, the US Department of Agriculture urged farmers to breed puppies as "crops" when money was tight. Puppies were also bred for research. This was the start of puppy mills.

What is a puppy mill? Think "puppy machine."

Backyard breeders can easily turn into puppy millers. These are people who breed dogs for a living. They breed dogs solely for the money, with no intention of studying the breed or improving its quality. They produce puppies with no breeding program. The puppies are given little attention, have poor health and are almost never socialized. The stud and bitch are also less than two years old—the required age for breeding.

Puppies at puppy mills are usually caged in chicken coops or small crates placed on top of one another. Rarely do their cages get cleaned out—usually they're never even touched until the puppies are big enough to be sold.

But not all puppy mills look like the evil pet factory you see in Scooby Doo cartoons. A puppy mill may be as clean as your backyard—it may even exist in your backyard. Puppy mills are, however, usually overcrowded, with the dogs being neglected or abused due to their big number.

Dogs need proper socialization. Without this, they develop a bad temper and rarely get along with people or other dogs. A dirty environment can result in a disease-prone environment. And being locked up in a cage doesn't exactly help a dog become sane.

So when you buy a puppy, don't buy from backyard breeders and puppy millers. But you just might have bought a pup from them without even knowing it.

Believe it or not, most pet stores purchase puppies from backyard breeders and puppy millers. I know what you're thinking. If backyard breeders and puppy millers sound disgusting, how can that cute little three-month-old golden retriever in the display window be suffering from health and other problems?

Pet stores don't buy directly from puppy millers and backyard breeders. They buy from brokers. These brokers are the ones who buy puppies wholesale from those evil little factories, clean them up, and sell them to pet stores—for triple the original price.

When you purchase the little puppy from the shop window, you will not only be bringing home a dog with poor health problems; you will also be bringing home a poorly socialized animal. Consider too that the animal has been incarcerated in the shop for quite some time where he is hardly taken care of. You may have problems in your hands once you bring the puppy home and he starts to mess up everything because it has not been reared properly.

Paying P25,000 for a Doberman is not acceptable unless he is of champion line. But any respectable and responsible champion breeder would not even think about selling his pups at a pet shop. Pet stores jack up their prices because their puppies have supposedly the "papers". Pedigree is a big deal, and shops always point out that their puppies are certified pure-breds.

The truth is, "papers" only certify that the puppy is the offspring of dogs registered with the PCCI (Philippine Canine Club Inc.). Other than that, it doesn't say its health conditions, its quality, its sociability.

In fact, some pet stores often make up their own papers. One dog-tracker.com forum member claims that after doing research on a Chihuahua she wanted to buy from a certain pet store, she found out the so-called champion parents had been deceased even before the pup was born.

What you can do

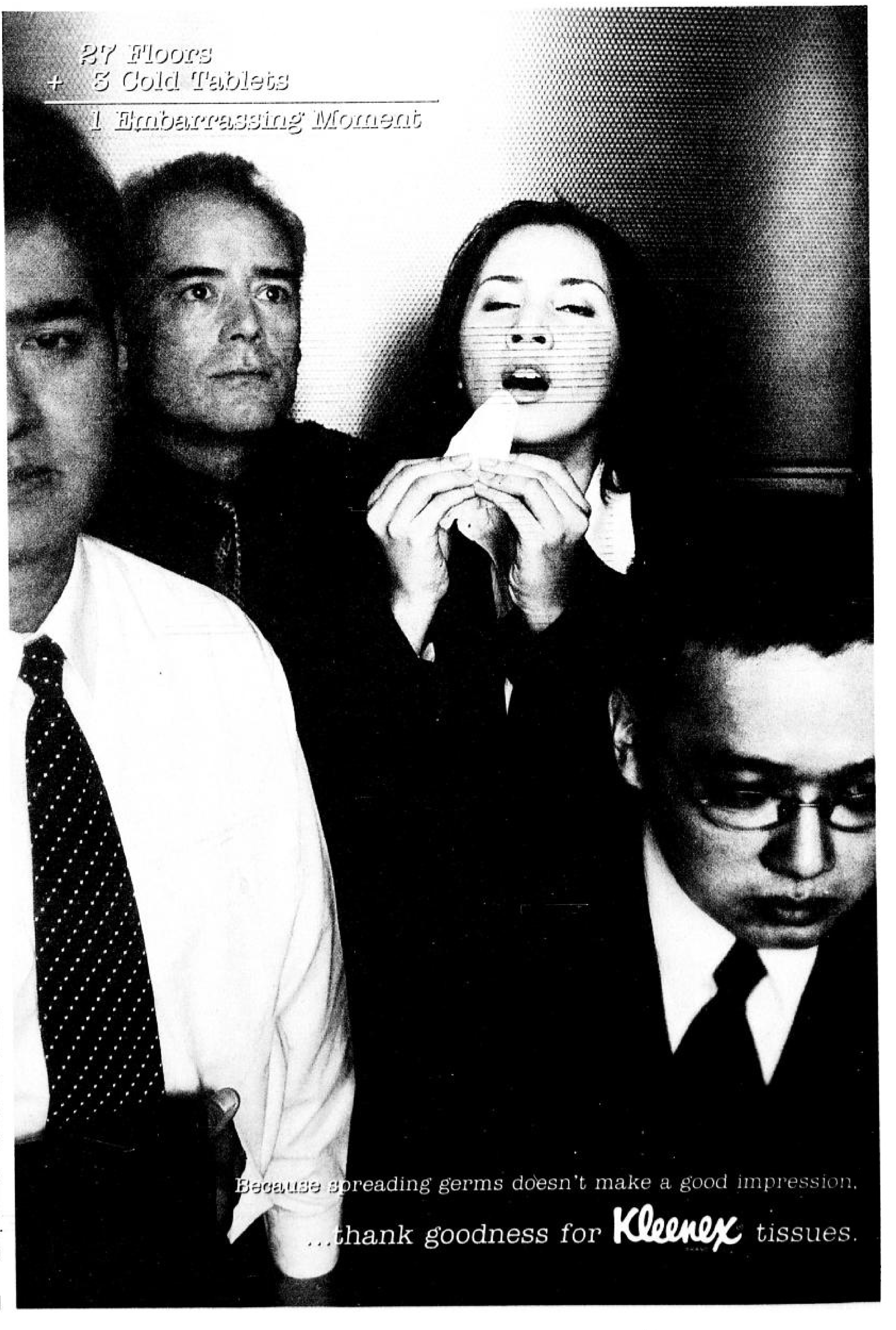
Don't buy from pet stores. Find a reputable breeder. Visit sites like www.dog-tracker.com for responsible breeders. Look in the classified ads and give the breeders a call. Don't hesitate to ask the breeder questions about his puppies, the puppies' parents, and possible health problems.

Once you have picked a breed suitable for you (buying a Great Dane if you live in a small apartment isn't exactly a sound decision), do as much research as you can on the breed. Call up friends who own the same breed to get a clear idea of what the breed is like.

Visit the breeder's house not only to see the puppy, but also to see the environment where it has been brought up. Insist that you take a look at the parents as well. This will give you an idea of how the puppy will look like in a few years.

Don't think that by buying a puppy from a pet shop, you will save him from a horrible life. Just adopt a pet from an animal shelter if you look at things that way.

E-mail the author at volcanogirl 28@ hotmail.com


27 Floors
+ 3 Cold Tablets
1 Embarrassing Moment
Because spreading germs doesn't make a good impression.
...thank goodness for Kleenex tissues.

Ateneo releases interactive CD-ROM yearbook

THE Blue Book team of Ateneo High School released Blue Book 2001 last year. It was accompanied by Blue 2.1, the Blue Book Interactive Multimedia CD-ROM, the first of its kind in the history of Ateneo High School. This project was developed and published in partnership with EACOMM Corp., a premiere developer in the emerging trend of CD-ROM yearbooks.

The Blue 2.1 CD Yearbook was authored by the Blue Book team, led by its editor in chief Marvin B. Guerra and creative director Ayz Ligot.

Because of the success of the Blue 2.1 CD Yearbook, the Blue Book team is releasing its own CD-ROM, again in partnership with EACOMM Corp., along with the usual Blue Book. Whereas the first CD-ROM was meant to be merely supplemental in nature, this second CD-ROM is far more advanced in terms of design and content. Set in the 1950s theme, the Blue 2.2 celebrates the graduation of more than 500 high school seniors on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Ateneo de Manila University Loyola Heights campus.

The Blue Book 2001 and CD-ROM are available at the OSO in ADMU High School for those who haven't claimed their copies. Call EACOMM Corp. at 438-2986, 438-3518, 421-2860 or visit www.eacomm.com.

COLORED COUPLE. Carlo Lopez and Rose Montenegro in Joe Salazar

ARTIST AND MUSE. Apol Lejano and Kiko Escora

KITTY GO GIRLS. Kit Gordon and Tara Santos

WAKE-UP CALL. Pia Guanio and Mike Jacob

LUCKY YOU. Paolo Prieto and Ciara Sevilla

BLACK AND WHITE. Jose and Raj Moreno with Tina Montinola

RUFFLED. Paolo and Bubbles Paraiso with Pia Cabreira

Welcome to the New Society

PHOTOS BY PAOLO PINEDA AND DAKILA ANGELES

THE MODEL MANANQUILS. Raya in Patrice Ramos-Diaz, Rissa and Robby in Reian Mata

HOSTESS Tessa Prieto-Valdes in Rajo

ARTS KEEPER. Ines Delgado

IT GIRL. Isabel Roces

P.S. Juan Miguel Ongsiako

A PREVIEW of Pauline Suaco-Juan

Tim Yap

I'LL let you in on a secret. Beneath the photos of the beautiful people you see week after week on this page, is a mission. More than the glitz and the glam of party, our paparazzi picks are real people with real lives—people who work hard and play hard—a new breed of bright young things who move the scene forward. A new society is upon us.

Some time ago, society balls would have young socialites in ball gowns parading in front of the city's upper crust. Those days, it was more of lineage and less of achievement that mattered to the "DBF" (*de buena familia*) set. Much time was spent on gauging the size of the wealth and tracing the family's roots. Anybody who tried to do well but didn't have that all-precious last name was considered a social climber.

Times have changed. These days, according to Preview editor in chief **Pauline Suaco-Juan**, the new society is "based more on meritocracy than aristocracy." It may still matter who your parents are, but what is more important is what you have done for yourself. This generation is more open and accepting toward entrepreneurs and self-made men and women. In fact, belonging or not belonging to "society" is the last of their true concerns.

SUMMIT OF MINDS. Luli Arroyo, Sabin Aboitiz and Lisa Gokongwei

In their special edition magazine for the year 2002, Preview came out with a "New Society" issue, profiling 30 young lives—their styles and their homes. From **Amanda Griffin** to **Mia Cuenca**, the Preview New Society special provides a peek into the names that are more than just names—into people who worked hard to get to where they are. Asked which they prefer, Cinderella or Sleeping Beauty, the Yoga Foundation's **Antonio** and **Sandy Arando** replied, "Sleeping Beauty, because at least in that tale, the prince actually did something."

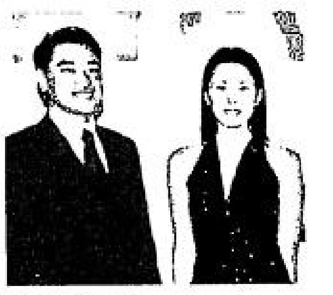
THE PREVIEW SOCIETY STAFF. Ria Romero, Ana Kalaw, Gino dela Paz, Pauline Suaco, Agoo Bengzon, Tracie Anglo, Jenina Ali, Rorie Carlos and Cosmo's Myrza Sison.

> Preview's special edition of the new meritocracy heralds the revolution that will shake society's foundation

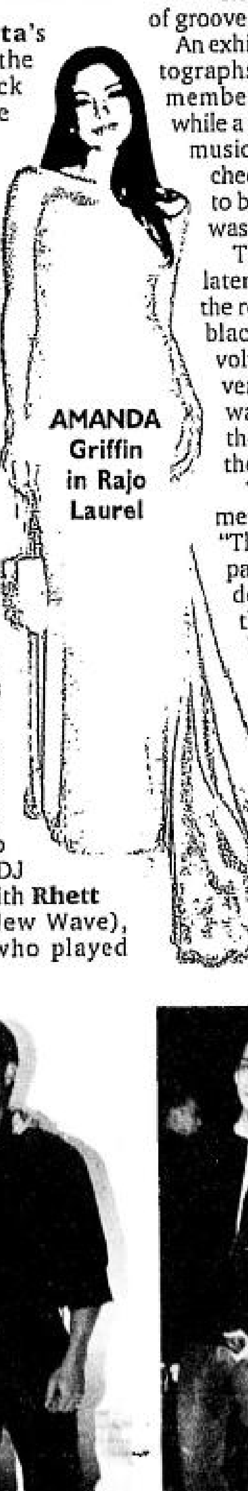
That answer may sum up this generation's take on society. You can be the son or daughter of the country's richest and most powerful man, but if you don't do anything with your life, then you will not get any respect.

"I saw it and realized that there is so much to these people aside from looking good and being stylish," said Summit boss **Lisa Gokongwei** after reading the special edition.

A BLONDE Leica Carpo


THAMES' Joel Santos and Vivienne Tan

That night at the Preview New Society gala, "funky formal" became the theme, with the young and stylish in full force at the 40th floor of the RCBC Plaza. Some came in deconstructed gowns and suits, others wore hats and toted hip bags. Twins **Rissa Samson** and **Robby Mananquil** arrived in young designer **Reian Mata**'s ruffled couture, with the former wearing a neck piece de resistance made of oysters! Sister **Raya**, on the other hand, wore **Patrice Ramos-Diaz** and distressed jeans. Hostess **Tessa Prieto-Valdes** plus a big majority of the Preview staff and the guests wore glittering **Rajo Laurel** gowns.


AMANDA Griffin in Rajo Laurel

DJ **J.A. Suaco** (who plays at hip bar Wansui) started the society ball rolling with his upbeat tracks while the red carpet streamed in VIPs to the cocktail area. A string quartet played dance anthems in classical arrangement. It was a joy listening to Kylie's "Can't Get You Out Of My Head," "Joy Rise," "9 p.m." and other club tracks. A "fashionista DJ showdown" ensued, with **Rhett Eala** (who played New Wave), Robby Mananquil (who played R&B) and **Phoemela Baranda** (hard-house) taking turns on the tables. Wherelse resident **Mon Maramba** completed the circle, with percussion players becoming his merchants of groove.

An exhibit of black and white photographs of the 30 New Society members lined the party halls while a revolving stage housed the musicians. Preview donated a check to Habitat for Humanity to build houses for the poor. It was a charity event after all.

The magic was reserved for later. At the strike of midnight, the revolution was sparked: the black and white portraits revolved to reveal their colored versions. The sleight of hand was roundly applauded and the crowd drank and danced the night away.

The criteria in selecting the members of the New Society? "They work hard and they are passionate at the things they do," Pauline said. "They are the new *ilustrados*. It might be stretching it a bit since they are not fighting for equality, liberty and fraternity. But these people push the envelope in their fields and are agents of change. They are the vanguards of my kind of revolution."

And that is no society secret.

U SOCIETY. Hindy and Gippy Tantoco at the red carpet

FUNK SOCIETY. Paolo Raymundo and Mich Dulce

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*Spa sets are available in 6 varieties.

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